CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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IBC WORLD NEWS
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MP govt to challenge HC order on RTO check posts P8

Oil prices rise amid stalled US-Iran peace talks P9

P10 Sinner cruises in Madrid as Gauff battles illness to stay alive

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7 DEFECTED AAP MPS LISTED UNDER BJP IN RS

Saffron party's strength in Upper House increases to 113, just 10 short of simple majority

NEW DELHI

In a transformative shift for the Upper House, Rajya Sabha Chairman CP Radhakrishnan on Monday formally accepted the merger of seven defected AAP MPs with the BJP.

The decision effectively decimates the AAP's strength in the Rajya Sabha from 10 members to just three, while propelling the BJP's individual tally to a dominant 113.

The seven MPs — Raghav Chadha, Ashok Mittal, Harbhajan Singh, Sandeep Pathak, Vikramjit Sahney, Swati Maliwal, and Rajinder Gupta — are now listed among the BJP lawmakers in the 'Party Position in the Rajya Sabha (as on April 24)'. Sanjay Singh, N D Gupta and Sant Balbir Singh are the three AAP MPs left in the party.

This comes even as AAP floor leader Sanjay Singh petitioned Radhakrishnan on Sunday seeking the disqualification of seven MPs citing the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution dealing with defections.

But by reaching the seven-member threshold, the group claims to fulfill the two-thirds requirement under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, a legal maneuver designed to bypass disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law.

The Chairman will now have to decide on the petition after a detailed hearing of both sides and give an order whether the merger as claimed by seven MPs is as per law.

The merger fundamentally alters the legislative math in the 245-member Rajya Sabha. With the addition of seven MPs, the BJP is now at 113, just 10 short of the majority mark of 123.

With the broader NDA bloc reaching 149, including seven nominated and two independent MPs, on its side with non-BJP parties accounting for 27 MPs — AIADMK five, JD(U) four, NCP four, TDP, Shiv Sena and UPPL (two each) and RPI(A), JD(S), AGP, NPP, MNF, RLD, RLM and PMK (one each), the government is significantly closer to a simple majority on its own.

The Opposition I.N.D.I.A. bloc has 75 MPs — Congress 29, Trinamool Congress 13, DMK eight, Samajwadi Party four; RJD, CPI(M) and National Conference (three each), JMM and Muslim League (two each) and NCP(SP), Shiv Sena (UBT), Kerala Congress (M), DMDK, MNM and Independent (one each). The AAP, which has come out of the bloc, also is part of the group in Parliament, taking the total to 78.

YSR Congress (seven), BJD(six), BRS (three) and BSP (one) are unattached though the BJD has been cooperating with the Opposition. There is one vacancy in the Rajya Sabha.

In the elections to be held for vacancies arising in June and July, the NDA is expected to gain another five seats and could be inching towards two-thirds mark of 163.

AAP LOST 7

- Raghav Chadha
- Ashok Mittal
- Harbhajan Singh
- Sandeep Pathak
- Vikramjit Sahney
- Swati Maliwal
- Rajinder Gupta

LEFT WITH 3

- Sanjay Singh
- ND Gupta
- Sant Balbir Singh

MERGER ALTERS LEGISLATIVE MATH

RS strength:	245
BJP:	113
Simple majority:	123
Short of	10
NDA bloc:	149

AAP to move court

The AAP will move court if seven of its former MPs are not disqualified under the anti-defection law, Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said on Monday, after the Chairman of the Upper House accepted their merger with the BJP. Reacting to the decision, Singh said the seven MPs had submitted a letter seeking recognition of their merger with the BJP, which was accepted by the Chair. He alleged that the objections raised by the AAP, including its demand for their disqualification under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, had not been considered.

Dinesh backs Cabinet shake-up, inclusion of senior MLAs

HUBBALLI

Opining that a Cabinet reshuffle has taken place as the government is nearing three years, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Monday stated that senior and experienced MLAs who are not in the Cabinet should also get a chance.

"There is an expectation of Cabinet reshuffle, but the party's high command and the chief minister will make a decision. Those who lose the ministerial berth should not feel it as an insult. All should be broad-minded. There are several MLAs who have not yet got the opportunity," the Minister opined.

"We are all loyal workers of the party, and we obey the high command's decision," he noted.

Regarding the matter of power sharing, Dinesh said the ball is in the court of the high command, and nobody interferes in that. There is no confusion and it does not affect the functioning style of the government. We are all working together. Everybody including MLAs, ministers, DCM and CM will accept what the high command says, Dinesh said.

The Health Minister supports the reshuffle as government nears three years, saying senior MLAs who haven't yet received an opportunity should be included, but high command will take a call on it.

Reshuffle row intensifies

A cabinet reshuffle row has intensified in the state as senior Congress MLAs demand a shake-up after three years of government, putting pressure on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and the Congress high command.

MLAs are demanding a cabinet revamp to accommodate experienced members, with over 25 legislators reportedly visiting Delhi to lobby for positions.

This ongoing unrest is seen as a major challenge for the Karnataka Congress leadership, which is trying to manage the conflicting demands of senior leaders and newer MLAs.

'Historic shift': Ladakh gets 5 new dists

SRINAGAR

Ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's two-day visit to Ladakh from April 30, the Union Territory (UT) administration on Monday approved the creation of five new districts, a move framed as administrative reform but unfolding amid ongoing negotiations over political safeguards.

Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena announced the decision in a post on X, calling it a "historic step" aimed at taking governance closer to people in remote areas and improving administrative efficiency in the vast region.

"A historic day for Ladakh. I have approved the notification for creation of five new districts in Ladakh, fulfilling the aspirations and long pending demand of the people of Ladakh," he said in a post on X.

The proposed districts—Zanskar and Drass in Kargil region, and Sham, Nubra and Changthang in Leh—will increase the total number of districts in Ladakh from two to seven.

NEW DISTRICTS

- Zanskar & Drass in Kargil
- Sham, Nubra & Changthang in Leh
- No. of districts rose to 7 from 2

0% DUTY ON 100% EXPORTS India–NZ seal historic deal

NEW DELHI

India and New Zealand on Monday signed the long-awaited Free Trade Agreement (FTA), marking a significant step in strengthening bilateral economic ties.

The pact is set to come into force later this year after ratification by New Zealand's Parliament, while negotiations for the agreement had formally begun in March 2025 during the visit of New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, who described it as a "once-in-a-generation" opportunity to expand trade, investment flows and labour mobility between the two countries.

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and New Zealand Trade Minister Todd McClay signed the agreement, which is being described as one of India's fastest concluded bilateral trade deals. Under the pact, New Zealand has committed to invest around $20 billion in India over the next 15 years while easing trade barriers and simplifying regulatory standards.

More on page 11

FTA DETAILS

- **DUTY-FREE ACCESS**: 100% of Indian exports gain duty-free access to New Zealand, boosting sectors like textiles, leather, gems, and engineering goods.
- **INVESTMENT COMMITMENT**: New Zealand committed to $20 billion in investments in India over the next 15 years.
- **LABOUR MOBILITY & VISAS**: Introduction of 5,000 "Temporary Employment Entry Visas" for Indian professionals and a Working Holiday Visa program for 1,000 young Indians annually.
- **STUDENT & EDUCATION MOBILITY**: Includes a dedicated annex for student mobility, facilitating easier, longer post-study work visas.
- **FAST-TRACK NEGOTIATION**: Concluded in just nine months, it is considered one of India's fastest negotiated trade deals.
- **SENSITIVE SECTOR PROTECTION**: India has protected its domestic dairy and agricultural sectors from tariff reductions

NCB launches 'Op WIPE' to curb online drug sales

BENGALURU

In a major push against the rising threat of online drug trafficking, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has launched Operation WIPE (Web-based Illicit Activities Prevention & Enforcement) to prevent the misuse of digital platforms for the illegal sale of pharmaceutical drugs regulated under the NDPS Act.

The operation marks a shift towards proactive enforcement, focusing on monitoring the surface web to detect and remove illegal drug listings before they lead to trafficking. It is supported by intelligence inputs from the International Narcotics Control Board's SNOOP (Scanning Novel Opioids on Online Platforms) programme. The NCB said its technical teams will continue monitoring online platforms using advanced tools and international intelligence inputs to detect emerging threats.

Rallies in Bengal were like pilgrimage: PM Modi

KOLKATA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said his campaign in West Bengal felt more like a spiritual journey than a political exercise, as he addressed voters on the final day of campaigning for the second and last phase of the state assembly polls.

In an audio message and an open letter to the people of the state, Modi expressed gratitude for the support he received during rallies and roadshows, and voiced confidence that the BJP would form the next government.

"Despite addressing so many rallies amid the intense heat, I did not feel even the slightest fatigue during this election campaign in West Bengal. These rallies, these road shows... I felt as if I was on a pilgrimage," he said.

The Prime Minister credited his energy to the devotion of people and blessings of Goddess Kali. "Whenever I went among the devotees of Maa Kali... Perhaps Maa Kali herself kept filling me with continuous energy," he said.

Despite addressing so many rallies amid the intense heat, I did not feel even the slightest fatigue during this election campaign in West Bengal. These rallies, these road shows... I felt as if I was on a pilgrimage.

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Drawing a comparison with his earlier spiritual experience ahead of the Ram temple consecration in Ayodhya, he said he felt a similar sense of divine strength during the campaign.

Iran blames 'excessive demands' of US for failure of peace talks

TEHRAN

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi blamed Washington for the failure of second round of peace talks on Monday, after arriving in Russia for a meeting with President Vladimir Putin.

He said Washington's "excessive demands" led to an impasse. Araghchi landed in Saint Petersburg in Russia on Monday to mark the final leg of a regional tour that also took him to Pakistan and Oman, focussing on bilateral ties and regional issues, including the Iran-US conflict.

"The US approaches caused the previous round of negotiations, despite progress, to fail to reach its goals because of the excessive demands," he told Iranian state media.

The statement comes after President Donald Trump cancelled a planned trip by US negotiators Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner saying that they will no longer be going to Pakistan for talks with Iran.

Political break-up? Cong gets 'talaq' threat

BENGALURU

The Indian National Congress in Karnataka is facing an unprecedented warning from sections of the Muslim community, with leaders invoking a symbolic "talaq" to signal a possible political break-up if grievances remain unaddressed.

The unrest has intensified following disciplinary action against minority MLCs and the removal of Naseer Ahmed as Political Secretary to the Chief Minister. What began as an internal party matter has now escalated into a broader political flashpoint, with leaders across districts expressing dissatisfaction.

Several minority representatives have cautioned the party leadership against sidelining Muslim voices, particularly in the backdrop of the Davanagere bypoll controversy. They warned that continued action against minority leaders could trigger a backlash from voters who have traditionally supported the party.

"If leaders representing minorities are insulted or targeted, the community will be forced to rethink its political relationship. This could become a political 'talaq'," a senior leader said in Bengaluru.

WANNA BEAT THE HEAT?

Keep an onion in your pocket: Scindia

NEW DELHI

As India is struggling with heatwave, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia advised people to follow an age-old remedy of beating the heat by keeping an onion in pocket.

Scindia, while addressing a gathering at Pichhore-Shivpuri in his Guna constituency, said that keeping an onion in pocket during peak summer helps in regulating body temperature.

He even pulled out an onion from his pocket to back his statement.

I don't use AC in my car or live in an air conditioned environment. I just keep an onion in my pocket and everything is fine.

—Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister

"I don't use AC in my car or live in an air conditioned environment. I just keep an onion in my pocket and everything is fine," he said.

"Keep an onion in your pocket; nothing will happen even in 51-degree heat," he added.

An elderly man present among the crowd also took out an onion from his pocket in a gesture of support for Scindia's statement.

Bengaluru too hot to handle

Bengaluru, historically celebrated for its mild 'air-conditioned' climate, now increasingly relies on artificial cooling as temperatures soar. The IMD data indicate a 1.5 degrees Celsius increase in minimum temperature during April-May, pushing households to use AC even at night. While Bengaluru's maximum temperature hovers around 36 degrees Celsius, the Kalyana Karnataka region faces 42-44 degrees Celsius. Coastal regions, though below 40 degrees Celsius, suffer from high humidity and dehydration, making conditions harsher.

RCB vs GT match scare as 240 CCTV cameras switched off at Chinnaswamy

Two staff disable CCTV systems before match, police restore within minutes

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

wA major security scare was averted at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium ahead of the IPL clash between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Gujarat Titans after nearly 240 CCTV cameras inside the venue were deliberately switched off hours before the match.The incident occurred on Friday, with the game scheduled for 7:30 pm. According to police, the CCTV network was disrupted around 11:30 am, affecting surveillance coverage at entry gates, surrounding zones, and key spectator areas including the D Corporate stands. The sudden outage raised immediate security concerns given the scale of the event and expected crowd turnout.Investigations revealed that two individuals, identified as Manjunath and Abdul Kalam, were responsible for disabling the system. Both were employees of IVS Digital Solutions, a subcontracted firm tasked with installing CCTV and cabling infrastructure at the stadium.Police saidthe accused allegedly entered the premises using a deactivated access card and gained unauthorised entry into the CCTV server room. Once inside, they switched off the surveillance system. The disruption was quickly detected as the cameras were also being monitored from the police control room.Officials immediately alerted Central Division Deputy Commissioner of Police Akshay, following which emergency measures were initiated. Police teams acted swiftly to restore the system, bringing all cameras back online within 20 minutes. By match time, full surveillance coverage had been reinstated, ensuring there was no compromise to public safety.A case has been registered at Cubbon Park Police Station, and the accused have been detained for questioning. Preliminary inquiries suggest that the act may have been triggered by salary-related grievances, with reports indicating the staff were upset over unpaid wages.Further investigation revealed that another employee, Srinivas, was also linked to complaints regarding pending payments. Police said all individuals involved are working professionals who had come to Bengaluru for employment.Authorities have issued notices to the accused and are continuing their probe into the incident. Despite the alarming lapse, the swift police response ensured that the high-profile IPL match proceeded smoothly with full security arrangements in place.

QUICK READ

KEA releases CET 2026 answer key, invites objections till April 30

Bengaluru

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has published the answer key for the 2026 Common Entrance Test (CET) on its official website, allowing candidates to review their responses. The CET exam was conducted on April 23 and 24 across the state. KEA has invited objections, if any, to the published key answers, with the deadline set for April 30. Candidates can submit objections through the online link provided by KEA. Officials have instructed applicants to mention accurate details such as question number and version code while raising objections. KEA clarified that objections with incomplete information will not be considered, and the final decision of subject experts will be binding.

Laptop worth Rs 59,000 stolen from locked house in Ashok Nagar

Bengaluru

A 41-year-old woman has lodged a complaint with Ashok Nagar police after her HP laptop worth Rs 59,000 was allegedly stolen from her locked house on Anthony Nichols Street. According to the complaint, the incident occurred after the family left home. The woman said she locked the house around 10.15 am before leaving for work. About an hour later, her younger son returned and found the laptop, purchased for his elder brother's studies, missing along with its bag. After failing to locate it, the family suspected theft. Police have registered a case under BNS Section 305 and are examining CCTV footage.

Six minors riding one scooter sparks outrage after viral photo in city

Bengaluru

A photo showing six minors riding a single scooter on Padarayanapura main road has triggered outrage on social media, raising concerns over safety and parental negligence. The image, reportedly captured by a biker, was shared on X and quickly went viral. Netizens criticised parents for allowing underage children to ride vehicles, calling for strict action against those responsible. The incident is said to have occurred around 10:45 am on April 26 near an auto gas station in Gouripalya. The scooter reportedly bore registration number KA05-JZ-9065. Authorities are expected to look into the matter following public outrage.

'Bumper gift' likely for DKS by May 15: MLA Ranganath

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Amid renewed speculation over leadership changes in the state Congress, Kunigal MLA Dr Ranganath has hinted that Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar may receive a "bumper gift" from the party high command, possibly around his birthday on May 15.Speaking to reporters, Ranganath expressed confidence that Shivakumar would soon be entrusted with a "good position," fuelling fresh discussions about a possible change in the Chief Minister's post. "We must do our work sincerely and leave the results to God. DK Shivakumar is working with full commitment for the party, and we believe he will be rewarded appropriately," he said.Ranganath's remarks have reignited debate over the widely discussed power-sharing arrangement within the Congress leadership in Karnataka. While he stopped short of confirming any formal agreement, he acknowledged that such a perception exists among party workers and the public. "There is a belief that an agreement exists, but the high command must clarify its nature and remove confusion," he noted.Adding intrigue, the MLA suggested that significant developments could unfold soon. "May 15 is his birthday. We hope he receives some good or 'sweet' news by then," he said, sparking speculation across political circles.At the same time, Ranganath praised Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for providing stable governance, while reiterating that many in the party wish to see Shivakumar assume the top post in the future. "Whatever decision the high command takes, we will abide by it. The right time will come for everything," he added, quoting a philosophical line to underline patience.

He also dismissed allegations made by Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy regarding the health of former minister D Sudhakar, stating that there was no attempt to hide information. Ranganath clarified that Sudhakar had been undergoing treatment for complications related to a long-standing condition and required medical intervention.In a related development, Ranganath hinted at internal discussions on a possible cabinet reshuffle. He said some party leaders have already visited Delhi to meet the high command, while another delegation is expected to follow soon.The comments come at a time when political activity within the Congress appears to be intensifying, with multiple signals pointing toward possible organisational or leadership changes in the near future.

AIR HOSTESS ASPIRANT ALLEGES STALKING, HARASSMENT; THREE DETAINED IN BAGALUR

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 20-year-old air hostess aspirant has filed a complaint alleging persistent stalking and harassment by three men during her daily commute near Bagalur, prompting police to detain the accused.

According to the complaint, the student, who is undergoing training at a private college in east Bengaluru, was repeatedly followed by the accused—residents of her village—while she travelled between her home and the bus stop. She alleged that the trio, led by a 22-year-old man, would tail her on a scooter, pass lewd remarks and intimidate her on a regular basis.The harassment reportedly escalated on April 19 when the accused made objectionable comments, leaving the student distressed and fearful of stepping out alone. She later informed her mother about the incidents. On April 23, the situation took a serious turn. After missing her usual bus around 9 am, the student began walking back home after speaking to her father. During this time, the accused allegedly approached her from behind on a scooter and struck her on the back.

Shocked and humiliated, she rushed home and narrated the incident to her family, who supported her in approaching the police. A case was subsequently registered at the Bagalur Police Station under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including Sections 74 (assault or use of criminal force against a woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and 75 (sexual harassment).

Police officials confirmed that the accused have been detained and are being questioned.

Woman faces smear campaign after Lokayukta complaint in Basavanagar

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A Bengaluru woman has alleged a coordinated smear campaign against her after she filed a complaint with the Karnataka Lokayukta, with over 50 defamatory banners appearing across Basavanagar.The complainant, Sathyavani, a GBA ticket aspirant residing in Talacauvery Layout, had earlier approached authorities alleging encroachment of a rajakaluve (stormwater drain) in Vibhutipura. She had also taken up the issue of illegal banner installations in the locality, leading to their removal.However, soon after her actions, unidentified individuals allegedly erected dozens of banners targeting her. The posters, displayed across Basavanagar and surrounding areas, contain serious allegations, accusing her of cheating people, collecting money fraudulently, and making false promises, including offering jobs in reputed companies.Some banners also claim that she has been obstructing construction activities in the area. Residents expressed concern over the scale and nature of the campaign, which has raised questions about intimidation tactics against civic complainants.

Sathyavani has alleged that the harassment is directly linked to her complaint on encroachment and her efforts to address civic violations. Despite CCTV footage reportedly capturing individuals installing the banners, she claimed that no significant action has been taken so far.

She has since filed a formal complaint at the HAL Police Station, seeking action against those responsible. However, she has accused the police of delayed response and inaction despite the seriousness of the matter.

In addition, Sathyavani has filed another complaint with the Lokayukta against the GBA Commissioner, questioning the handling of her earlier grievances.

550 ex-servicemen to guard prisons after repeated security lapses

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In response to a series of security breaches, the Karnataka government has approved the deployment of 550 ex-servicemen as prison guards to strengthen surveillance and discipline across correctional facilities.

The move follows multiple incidents, including a terror suspect allegedly accessing a mobile phone inside jail and viral videos showing inmates partying within Bengaluru Central Prison. Officials said the decision aims to plug critical gaps in prison security and restore order.

Alok Kumar, Director General of Police (Prisons), has written to the State Ex-Servicemen Welfare Society to initiate the recruitment process. The arrangement, estimated to cost around Rs 20 crore annually,

is expected to be temporary until more than 1,200 vacant jail warden posts are filled.

Authorities said the ex-servicemen will be strategically deployed in vulnerable areas, particularly near prison perimeters where contraband such as mobile phones and drugs have reportedly been smuggled by being thrown over compound walls. Investigations into recent breaches revealed that such activities were more common in zones with limited guard presence.

The recruitment will be carried out on a contract basis, with the finance department granting exemption under Rule 4(g) of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTPP) Act, allowing the process to bypass conventional tendering.Applicants must be below 45 years of age, meet strict physical fitness standards, and complete a 3 km run within 20 minutes. They must also have a clean record with no criminal background.Kumar said the selected personnel would undergo specific training before deployment. He added that they would be assigned roles that minimise direct interaction with inmates, focusing instead on surveillance and perimeter security.

Sources indicated that 455 ex-servicemen will be posted across seven central prisons, including about 250 at Parappana Agrahara Central Prison in Bengaluru. The remaining personnel will be deployed across eight district prisons in the state.

The prison department plans to assess the effectiveness of this measure and submit a report to the government, which will determine whether the arrangement should be extended or modified in the future.

25-year-old techie dies after sudden brain stroke, family in shock

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 25-year-old tech professional from Hassan district died after suffering a sudden brain stroke while speaking with her mother, leaving her family and community in shock.

The deceased, Shweta, had returned home from work on April 25 and was reportedly smiling and chatting with her mother when she suddenly collapsed. Family members said she became unresponsive and lost her ability to speak within moments.

Amid their grief, Shweta's parents initially decided to donate her organs after being informed that her brain function had failed. However, doctors later said organ donation could not be carried out. She passed away on Sunday morning without responding to treatment.

Her body has since been shifted to her hometown in Hassan for final rites. The incident has left her parents devastated, as she was their only daughter.

The case has also triggered concern among locals, coming in the wake of recent reports of sudden health emergencies among young people in the region. While Shweta was said to be healthy with no known medical history, her sudden death due to a brain stroke has raised anxiety.

Doctors note that such incidents, though rare, can occur due to underlying conditions that may go undetected, highlighting the importance of regular health check-ups even among young individuals.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CIVILIANS

ISRO to open astronaut cadre to civilians, 4 slots in next batch

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a significant shift in India's human spaceflight programme, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to open its astronaut cadre to civilians for the first time, with four of the ten slots in the upcoming second batch expected to be filled by specialists from non-military backgrounds.The move marks a transition from the initial phase of the Gaganyaan mission, where the focus was primarily on ensuring safe crewed flights using experienced military test pilots. The first batch of astronauts—Air Commodore Prashanth B Nair, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, and Group Captain Angad Prathap—were all drawn from the Indian Air Force's elite test pilot pool.According to sources, ISRO's astronaut selection and management committee has recommended that the second batch include six mission pilots from military aviation backgrounds and four civilian experts from Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields. The inclusion of civilians reflects ISRO's long-term vision of building a diverse and sustainable astronaut corps capable of supporting scientific missions and future space station operations.While civilians will be inducted in the second batch, they are expected to begin flying only from the fourth crewed Gaganyaan mission. This phased approach aligns with global practices, where space agencies initially rely on military-trained astronauts until technologies mature and mission risks are reduced.The expansion of the astronaut pool is also linked to increasing mission frequency. The committee initially estimated a requirement of seven astronauts for operational needs but later raised the number to ten, factoring in potential international collaborations and attrition.

Man posing as Infosys executive dupes restaurateur of Rs 3 crore

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A Mysuru-based restaurateur has alleged that he was duped of over Rs 3 crore in a land scam by a man who posed as an executive of Infosys and convinced him to invest in a purported land deal in Attibele.The complainant, Bharath CS (32), told police that he was introduced in early 2025 to the accused, Gagandeep alias Gangan N Deep (31), a resident of Chikkaballapur, through a mutual contact. The meeting reportedly took place during a visit to the Assistant Commissioner's office.According to the complaint, Gagandeep claimed to be a regional head in Infosys's corporate social responsibility division. Bharath said he cross-verified the claim through a relative of a state minister, which made the offer appear credible.

QUICK READ

Special classes to help failing students improve

Mangaluru
The Karnataka Department of School Education has allowed Pre-University colleges to conduct extra classes and training for students who failed first and second year exams in 2026. The decision aims to help students improve their results. Officials said classes can be held in April and May, but attendance must be voluntary. Colleges must take consent from students and parents before conducting sessions. Authorities warned that strict action will be taken if any college forces students to attend. The move follows a meeting between college management representatives and department officials in Bengaluru to address student concerns and academic support needs.

Thumbe dam level drops, water rationing begins

Mangaluru
Water levels at the Thumbe dam, a key source of drinking water for Mangaluru, have dropped to 4.47 metres, the lowest in seven years, due to intense summer heat and poor rainfall. Authorities announced water supply on alternate days starting May 1. Officials said reduced pre-monsoon rains and rising demand have worsened the situation. The city needs about 160 million litres daily, raising concerns over supply. Other reservoirs may ease pressure slightly. With monsoon expected soon, residents are urged to use water carefully and avoid wastage to prevent a severe crisis in coming weeks.

Vande Bharat link may boost coastal travel soon

Mangaluru
The Bengaluru–Mangaluru–Madgaon Vande Bharat train service is likely to begin before the monsoon, bringing faster rail travel to Karnataka and Goa. Officials said electrification of the route is complete and trial runs may start before June. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw confirmed that the service will be launched soon. The train is expected to cut travel time, though speed limits remain in the ghat section between Sakleshpur and Subrahmanya. Final stops are not yet fixed, but a halt in Mangaluru is widely expected. Leaders from the region are pushing for inclusion of coastal stations in the route.

High SSLC scores spark political war of words

Education officials and political leaders are clashing over allegations of mass cheating following record-breaking SSLC examination results this year.

SHIVAMOGGA

A heated debate has erupted over the recent record-breaking SSLC examination results. While some political leaders have attributed the high success rate to widespread cheating, local officials are standing firm, calling these claims baseless and hurtful to the hardworking students of our state.

Critics, including former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and MLA H. Vishwanath, recently alleged that the historic scores were only possible because students were allowed to copy. However, during a press conference, supporters of the education department hit back. They argued that the success is the fruit of tireless labor by teachers, parents, and the children themselves. It was noted that such cynical comments from veteran leaders only serve to damage the morale of young learners who have studied hard for their future.

The government is moving forward with positive reforms despite the noise. For the first time in history, state schools are actively advertising to attract new students. Furthermore, a massive recruitment drive is on the horizon. The cabinet has decided to fill 56,000 government positions and 5,800 posts in aided schools, ensuring that social justice is maintained while following court guidelines on reservations.

To keep students grounded and informed, schools have even started a new morning tradition like reading important daily news together. This initiative aims to connect children with the world around them. Officials urged critics to stop playing politics with education and instead celebrate the progress of our schools, which are finally prioritizing growth and transparency for every child.

Urgent action demanded after devastating district storm

SHIVAMOGGA

Life in Shivamogga came to a standstill following a violent downpour that ravaged the district. Violent winds and heavy rain destroyed crops and snapped power lines, prompting local leaders to demand immediate government intervention to assist the struggling residents.

Leading the charge, MP B.Y. Raghavendra met with district officials today to submit an urgent appeal. The storm dealt a crushing blow to the farming community, particularly those growing areca nuts. Hundreds of trees were uprooted, representing an irreparable financial loss for local families. In rural pockets like Hanumantapur and Mallapur, the scene was even more dire; roofs were torn off houses, leaving families exposed to the elements.

Public safety is currently the biggest concern. Fallen electric poles have left several areas in total darkness for over twelve hours, creating a life-threatening environment for both people and livestock. The MP has urged Mescom crews to work on a war footing to restore electricity and cleared fallen trees that are blocking major roads.

The district administration has been asked to conduct an immediate survey to calculate crop and property damage. Leaders warned that if compensation and temporary housing for the poor are not provided quickly, large-scale protests will follow. For now, the community waits in the dark, hoping for a swift response to rebuild their broken homes and livelihoods after one of the most destructive storms in recent memory.

Tragedy strikes on day of housewarming feast

BANTWAL

A cloud of profound grief settled over Sajipa Munnur village as a respected young scholar passed away on the very day he was set to celebrate his new home. Ameer Arshadi, a thirty-six-year-old religious leader, died of a sudden heart attack just hours before his guests were scheduled to arrive for a housewarming feast.

Arshadi had served as a dedicated Khateeb at the local mosque for five years, earning a reputation as an inspiring speaker who motivated the youth and brought positive change to his community. Though he had recently been receiving treatment for a kidney illness, his death came as a total shock.

The tragedy unfolded when Arshadi complained of sharp chest pain. Family members rushed him to a private hospital and later to a facility in Mangaluru, but sadly, he could not be saved. Instead of the laughter and joy expected at the newly built house in Alampady-Koppala, the residence is now filled with mourners.

Arshadi leaves behind his grieving parents, wife, and two young children. His admirers remember him as a man of great faith and kindness who worked tirelessly for religious awareness. The feast that was meant to mark a fresh beginning has instead become a gathering of a heartbroken community saying a final goodbye to a beloved leader.

Fellow passengers successfully helped a woman deliver her baby on a train after medical help failed to arrive promptly.

Passengers help woman deliver baby on train

MANGALURU

In a heartwarming display of humanity, a pregnant woman gave birth on a train with the help of fellow passengers after medical help failed to arrive in time. The incident occurred on a train traveling from Mangaluru to Mysuru, which had to make an emergency stop at the B.C. Road station in Bantwal after the woman went into active labor.

As soon as the train halted, officials called for medical assistance. However, tension grew as more than thirty minutes passed without a doctor reaching the platform. With the situation becoming critical, two brave women passengers stepped forward to help. Turning the toilet area of the train coach into a makeshift delivery room, the co-travellers successfully assisted the woman in giving birth.

Once the delivery was complete, railway personnel quickly coordinated to transport the mother and her newborn to the Government Lady Goschen Hospital in Mangaluru. Hospital staff have since confirmed that both the mother, who is a resident of Mysuru, and her baby are in stable condition and doing well.

While the story ended happily thanks to the quick thinking of strangers, the delay in professional medical response has raised questions. Railway authorities have remained silent regarding why a doctor was unable to reach the station during the half-hour wait. For now, the passengers are being hailed as heroes for ensuring that a journey meant for home ended with the safe arrival of a new life.

Forest officer narrowly escapes death from tree

UDUPI

A terrifying accident nearly turned fatal in Havanje village when a massive roadside tree crashed onto a moving car. Devaraj, a local forest department officer, managed to survive the incident without a single injury, though his vehicle was not as fortunate.

The close call happened at Golikatte while Devaraj was driving to work. As he passed a busy stretch of the main road, the giant tree suddenly gave way, collapsing directly onto his car. The impact was violent, completely crushing the rear section of the vehicle. Witnesses were shocked to see Devaraj emerge from the wreckage unharmed, a feat many are calling a miraculous escape.

The timing of the collapse has sparked serious concern among local residents. The tree fell right next to a public bus stop, an area that is usually crowded with commuters and students during the morning rush hour. Had the tree veered just a few feet in either direction, it likely would have flattened the bus shelter or hit several other passing vehicles, potentially leading to a high number of casualties.

Local authorities are now under pressure to inspect other aging trees along the district's main roads to prevent a repeat of today's near-disaster. While Devaraj is back home safe, the sight of his mangled car serves as a grim reminder of how quickly a routine morning commute can turn into a fight for survival. Public safety officials are urged to act before luck runs out.

Interstate burglar caught for Padavari gold theft

BYNDOOR

In a major breakthrough, Byndoor police have arrested a notorious interstate burglar linked to a high-profile gold theft in Padavari village. The suspect, identified as Umesh Balegar Mallaru, was apprehended following a targeted investigation into a daytime robbery at the home of local resident Gurukiran Patwal.

The thief had struck while the house was empty, breaking through the front door and looting gold ornaments from a cupboard. During a intense interrogation, Mallaru confessed that he had already melted the stolen jewelry into solid gold bars to avoid detection. He had hidden the stash in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, hoping to sell it off quietly. Acting quickly on this tip, a police team traveled to Madurai and successfully recovered 22 grams of gold bars, valued at approximately 2.81 lac.

Mallaru is far from a first-time offender, he is a seasoned criminal with a staggering record. Police revealed that he is a suspect in 36 different cases across Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. He has already been convicted in eight of those cases, while 23 others are still being investigated by various departments. His crimes span from coastal Malpe to the hilly regions of Chikkamagaluru.

BJP women protest against defeat of bill

MANGALURU

Tensions flared in the city as activists from the BJP Mahila Morcha took to the streets in a protest march. The group is targeting the Congress party following the recent defeat of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill in Parliament, a move they claim blocks progress for women across India.

The protest, organized as a "padayatra," began at the BJP office at PVS Junction. Dozens of women marched through the city, eventually gathering in front of the Mangaluru City Corporation. Leading the protest, unit president Poornima Rao praised the BJP's record on empowerment, citing the appointment of President Draupadi Murmu as a key milestone. She argued that the new Bill was designed to ensure more women could serve as MLAs and MPs, helping to balance leadership in government.

Rao lashed out at the opposition, alleging that Congress worked to defeat the Bill because they do not want to see women in positions of power. "The BJP will continue to push for the reintroduction of this Bill," she stated, warning that a much larger agitation would follow if the government does not act quickly.

Local leaders, including MLA D. Vedavyas Kamath and MLC Kishore Kumar Puttur, joined the activists to show their support. While Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has previously questioned the BJP's own speed in implementing such reforms, the protesters today made it clear that they view the current political setback as a direct attack on their rights and future representation.

Police seize thirteen lorries for illegal sand

UDUPI

In a major crackdown against the "sand mafia," Udupi police conducted a massive district-wide operation, seizing thirteen lorries involved in illegal transportation and overloading. The sting operation, aimed at curbing the depletion of local natural resources, targeted key routes and check-posts where violators frequently bypass strict environmental regulations.

Acting on direct orders from the Deputy Commissioner, teams from various local police stations and traffic departments fanned out across the district to inspect heavy vehicles. During the surprise checks, officers discovered thirteen trucks carrying sand far beyond the legal weight limits. Many of these vehicles were also found to be operating without valid permits or the necessary licensing documents required for transporting minerals.

The seized lorries have since been handed over to the Department of Mines and Geology. Authorities confirmed that the vehicle owners will face heavy fines and legal proceedings under strict mining laws. Beyond the seizures, police issued stern warnings to drivers and transport companies, emphasizing that environmental laws are not optional and that overloading poses a serious risk to road safety and infrastructure.

FIRE SAFETY SYSTEM FAIL

Late fire response sparks fury in Udupi

UDUPI

A massive fire tore through a commercial complex near the City Bus Stand, leaving local business owners in ruins and the public fuming over a delayed emergency response. The blaze targeted mobile retail shops, destroying stock worth crores of rupees and wiping out the primary livelihoods of several local families.

The source of the community's outrage lies in the timing of the rescue. Although the fire station in Kinnimulki is located less than two kilometers from the scene, witnesses claim it took firefighters nearly forty-five minutes to arrive. Traders argue that this nearly hour-long wait allowed the small flames to transform into an uncontrollable inferno. "This negligence cannot be repeated," stated Vivek G. Suvarna, president of the Udupi Mobile Retail Association, who is now demanding a high-level investigation into the lapse.

Groups like the Solidarity Youth Movement have joined the call for justice, urging the district administration to provide immediate compensation to the distressed shopkeepers. The incident has exposed serious gaps in the city's safety protocols. Critics are now pointing out that many commercial buildings lack proper fire equipment or even accessible roads for emergency vehicles.

In the wake of the tragedy, the public is calling for mandatory fire safety training and the modernization of the fire department's technology. As the smoke clears, the focus remains on holding officials accountable to ensure that a short distance never again results in such a long and costly wait for help.

Police catch thief in temple donation case

UDUPI

Devotees in Kadthala village can finally breathe a sigh of relief as local police have apprehended a man responsible for a series of thefts at a revered local temple. The arrest follows an investigation into a break-in at the Bharbhareshwara Durgaparameshwari Temple, where sacred donation boxes were targeted.

The accused, 35-year-old Raghavendra V.K. from Varanga village, was taken into custody by the Ajekar police. According to authorities, the thief broke the locks on multiple donation boxes dedicated to Bharbhareshwara, Kodamaniththaya, and Nagadevara. While the amount of cash stolen was relatively small, around Rs 1,000. The act of desecrating a place of worship had deeply upset the community.

Police acted swiftly, recovering the stolen money along with a motorcycle worth Rs 25,000, a mobile phone, and an iron spanner used to force open the locks. The recovery of these items provides strong evidence against the suspect. While one man is currently in custody, officials are continuing their investigation to determine if any accomplices were involved in the crime. For now, the arrest serves as a stern warning that even small-scale thefts from community spaces will not be ignored by the law.

QUICK READ

Libraries and temples urged to share manuscripts

CH NEWS ,Gadag
The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, under the Gyana Bharatham Mission, has started a project to protect old handwritten manuscripts across India. The initiative will survey, conserve, digitize, register, translate, and publish these rare documents. A single national platform will give public access to this heritage. In Gadag district, libraries, temples, trusts, monasteries, ashrams, and private collectors are requested to voluntarily share manuscripts. Experts have been appointed for collection and review. For details, contact listed coordinators or the Tourism Department office in Gadag. This project aims to preserve cultural knowledge using modern technology for future generations across the nation.

Gram Panchayat objection deadline extended in Karnataka

CH NEWS,Udupi
The period for public objections to the draft notification fixing positions of elected members of Gram Panchayats in Karnataka under Section 5(1) has been extended until May 2 at 5.30 pm. The review adalat scheduled for April 27 on gram panchayat member numbers in 31 districts has been postponed. It will now be held on May 5 at the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Gate No. 2, Bengaluru, from 2.30 pm to 5 pm. Objectors may attend with Aadhaar or government ID, said the Karnataka Panchayat Delimitation Commission in a statement issued on Monday.

Crop insurance claims rejected, Objections invited now

CH NEWS,Udupi
Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for the 2024-25 monsoon season, certain crop insurance proposals have been rejected as they did not match the crops registered by farmers and the official crop survey report. The rejected list has been displayed on notice boards at the Assistant Director of Agriculture office in Udupi, Farmers Contact Centre in Brahmavar, and concerned Gram Panchayats. Farmers who have objections may submit them within 15 days with valid supporting documents. Submissions can be made to the nearest Farmers Contact Centre in Kapu or Brahmavar or to the Assistant Director of Agriculture office in Udupi.

MLA Venkatesh reviews development works in Pavagada meeting

MLA reviewed rural roads, grants, fodder supply, and directed officials to ensure water availability and basic infrastructure upkeep

PAVAGADA

The third-quarter KDP progress review meeting was held on Monday at the Taluk Panchayat Hall in Pavagada under the chairmanship of MLA H V Venkatesh.

During the meeting, the MLA issued strict instructions to officials to review the delay in Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works in several villages of the taluk and resolve issues at the earliest. He said water supply problems in rural areas must be addressed without delay.The MLA also discussed issues related to rural roads, government grants, and

fodder supply. He instructed officials to monitor these works closely to ensure that public services are not disrupted.In a separate session with Gram Panchayat Development Officers, he directed them to take immediate steps to prevent drinking water shortages in villages. He stressed that priority should be given to basic infrastructure development and maintaining cleanliness in rural areas.

Officials present in the meeting included GP Deputy Secretary Eshwarappa, TP EO Madhusudan, Tahsildar Y Ravi, and Guarantee Scheme Implementation Committee Taluk President K S Papanna, along with other departmental officers.The meeting focused on improving coordination between departments and speeding up pending development works. Officials assured that necessary action would be taken to resolve the highlighted issues and ensure better delivery of services to rural residents in the coming days.

Social Welfare officials conducted hostel training, stressing record-keeping, administration skills, and practical application for better management efficiency

WORKSHOP HELD ON HOSTEL MANAGEMENT SKILLS

CH NEWS, GADAG

A one-day workshop focusing on hostel and residential school management was held in Gadag to improve administrative efficiency among Social Welfare Department staff. The programme covered topics such as record management, food safety, e-marking, and bill preparation.

The workshop was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sridhar in collaboration with the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Social Welfare Department, and Health and Family Welfare Department.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Director of the Social Welfare Department Dr. Nanda Hanabaratti urged participants to make full use of the training and apply the knowledge in daily hostel operations.

Experts conducted sessions on different aspects of management. B.M. Badigera spoke on maintaining proper records in hostels, while Udayakumar Yalivala explained hostel administration procedures.

Gopal T. Lamani discussed food procurement systems, and Mallikarjuna Hosur guided participants on bill preparation. Health officials also addressed food safety practices, with inputs from district treasury and health education officers.

Officials said the training was aimed at improving transparency, efficiency, and quality in hostel management across the district.

Several departmental officers, hostel supervisors, and administrative staff attended the programme, including representatives from the Backward Classes Welfare Department and Health and Family Welfare Department.

The workshop concluded with a call for better coordination among departments to ensure smooth functioning of residential facilities for students in the district.

Religious send-off held for Hunsur Hajj travellers

HUNSUR

A special guidance and felicitation programme was organised for Hajj pilgrims of Hunsur taluk at Jamia Masjid on Nagar Bazaar Road. During the event, pilgrims were honoured with shawls, garlands, and religious books before their journey. Speaking at the programme, Salim Attari, head of the Dawah Islamic State, advised the pilgrims to make full use of their time during the holy pilgrimage. He said that pilgrims should dedicate their days to prayer and worship without wasting time and should focus on strengthening their devotion to Allah.He reminded the pilgrims that they are going to a sacred place and should carry out all religious duties with sincerity and patience. He also noted that the weather at the holy sites is very hot and pilgrims should remain calm and committed to their faith without fear.Attari said that Hajj is a special opportunity granted by Allah and urged pilgrims to perform their rituals with devotion and discipline to ensure a successful pilgrimage.

Radhika Rajanna elected unopposed as Panchayat Chief

MAGADI

In a smooth political development, Radhika Rajanna has been elected unopposed as the president of Belagumba Gram Panchayat in Magadi taluk. The election was held on Monday, and officials confirmed that no other nominations were filed.

Returning Officer Renukesh announced that the election became unanimous after the earlier president Uma Narasimha Murthy resigned from the post. As no rival candidates came forward, Radhika Rajanna was declared elected without contest.

Soon after the announcement, supporters and local leaders celebrated the victory by bursting crackers and congratulating her.

Speaking after her election, Radhika Rajanna said the Gram Panchayat plays a key role in delivering basic facilities to rural people. She added that in many cases, local bodies are more important than higher levels of government in solving daily issues.

She said she plans to visit all villages under the panchayat limits, meet officials, and directly hear public grievances. She also highlighted that many residents still struggle to get e-account services and are unable to access government welfare schemes, which she aims to address on priority.

Radhika said her election was possible due to the support of all members and assured that she would work for overall development.

She added that she wanted to prove the role women can play when given leadership responsibilities.

Member Chandrakala Venkatesh said the leadership rotation system within the panchayat has given opportunities to many members, and expressed confidence in Radhika's experience and ability.

Officials, including PDO Satish, Secretary Krishnappa, and several elected members, attended the event and extended their congratulations.

The meeting ended with hopes for faster development in the rural region under the new leadership.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WORK

District governor highlights Rotary service legacy

HUNSUR

The Rotary Club, a global network of professionals and entrepreneurs, continues to serve society with dedication and has completed 121 years of international service, said Rotary District Governor P.K. Ramakrishna during an official programme held in Hunsur.

The event was organised at the Rotary Bhavan on 25–26 April, where achievers from various fields were honoured for their contributions to society. The governor said the organisation, founded by Paul Harris in 1905, works with a mission of service in areas such as health, education,

cleanliness, peace, and environmental protection.

He said Rotary has played a major role in global initiatives like polio eradication, clean drinking water projects, and support for Anganwadi development. He added that recognising and honouring social achievers is an important part of Rotary's service tradition.

Assistant Governor Rajegowda Tirumalapur said the organisation works closely with communities and supports women's self-reliance and development-oriented activities in coordination with government efforts.Homeopathic doctor Dr. Raghupathi V. Rao said Rotary's strength lies in service-mindedness rather than financial power. He highlighted its work in healthcare, drinking water supply, education, and mother-child welfare.Rotary Club President H.R. Krishnakumar said several service initiatives have been carried out in Hunsur, including clean drinking water projects, school development, Anganwadi support, and public welfare programmes.During the programme, several achievers were honoured for their contributions, including educators, doctors, and social workers.

Awareness drive highlights wildlife protection and laws

Bar Association President Siddana Gowda urged environmental care, saying humans must support nature by keeping water bowls for animals during summer

CH NEWS, HAVERI

An awareness programme on protection of birds and animals along with key social laws was held in Haveri under the joint initiative of the District Judiciary, Legal Services Authority, Bar Association, prosecution department, and the organisation "Water for Voiceless".

Inaugurating the programme, District and Sessions Judge Biradar Devendrappa stressed the importance of water conservation and protection of wildlife during the intense summer season. He said that maintaining ecological balance is a shared responsibility and urged citizens to provide water to thirsty birds and animals.

He explained that water plays a vital role in sustaining life and recalled earlier times when people had to travel long distances for drinking water. He said increasing water scarcity today calls for better conservation, reuse, and responsible usage.

District Bar Association President Siddana Gowda, who presided over the event, said humans are closely connected to nature and even small acts like providing water to animals can help maintain environmental balance. He urged people to keep water bowls outside homes during summer.

Public Relations Officer Ranjana Chandrashekar spoke about the importance of providing water sources for birds and animals and encouraged participants to support conservation efforts.

Legal experts also educated participants about important laws, including the Child Marriage Prohibition Act, POCSO Act, and Dowry Prohibition Act, highlighting their role in protecting society and vulnerable groups.

Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority Srishailaja H.V. welcomed the gathering.

Officials, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff, and members of the public attended the programme, which aimed to promote environmental awareness along with legal literacy among citizens.

Strict CCTV monitoring planned for PUC exams

MANDYA

The Second PUC Supplementary Examination will be conducted from April 30 to May 13 under strict supervision to ensure transparency and prevent malpractice, said Deputy Commissioner Dr Kumar.

Chairing a review meeting at the District Collector's office, he said a total of 2,877 students will appear for the examination across seven centres in the district. He instructed officials to conduct the exams without any loopholes and with full discipline.

Dr Kumar said that all examination centres will be under CCTV surveillance, and cameras have already been installed in classrooms. He added that webcasting will also be monitored from the District Collector's office, and officials have been assigned for supervision.

He directed that Xerox and cyber centres within 200 metres of examination centres should remain closed during exam days to prevent unfair practices. He also said that question papers will be transported securely from the district treasury with police protection.

To ensure safety, route officers have been appointed, and GPS tracking will be installed in vehicles carrying question papers.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to provide basic facilities such as drinking water, seating arrangements, clocks in exam halls, uninterrupted power supply, and medical support at centres. He also instructed that bus services for rural students should run on time without delays.

Students will not be allowed to carry mobile phones or smart devices inside examination halls, and strict action will be taken against any violations, including recording or filming during the exams.

Officials from the education department and other departments attended the meeting.

Hanagal housing review sparks development push drive

HANAGAL

Hanagal MLA Srinivas Mane held a municipal meeting on Monday and directed Chief Officer Y K Jagadish to review names of housing beneficiaries and correct records for issuing revised rights. He said a proposal has been sent to the government to allot plots to landless families in reserved municipal land. He urged quick approval so eligible people can receive sites without delay.

The MLA noted that Rs 1.5 crore has already been collected from auction of corner plots and asked officials to use this money for development works in the town.

QUICK READ

Belagatta students to receive talent awards honour

CH NEWS, Chitradurga Students in Belagatta will be honored through a talent award program organized by the 1990–91 SSLC alumni group of Sri Maruti Rural High School, called Geletanada Gangotri. The event will be held on April 28 at 10:30 am at Sri Narahari Sadguru Kalyana Mantapa in Belagatta village of Chitradurga taluk. Students who scored highest marks in the 2025–26 PUC and SSLC exams will be awarded. A procession will begin from the village Anjaneya temple to the venue. Organizers said the aim is to encourage education and motivate students to perform better. Dr B M Gurunath and Nagaraj invited the public.

District ensures fair conduct of board examinations

CH NEWS, Gadag The Karnataka School Examination and Evaluation Board will conduct the Second PUC Annual Examination-2 from April 30 to May 13, 2026, between 10:15 am and 4:15 pm. To stop cheating and maintain order, district administration has declared a 200-meter restricted zone around seven exam centres in Gadag. During exams, gatherings of more than five people are banned. Shops with Xerox and photocopy services will remain closed in this area. Loudspeakers are not allowed. Mobile phones and electronic devices are prohibited for students and staff. Media can record student arrival exit outside centres to protect exam privacy fairness throughout schedule.

Chitradurga to celebrate Lord Buddha Jayanti

Chitradurga The Lord Buddha Jayanti celebration will be held on May 1 at 10:30 am in front of Chitradurga City Stadium, jointly organized by District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Kannada and Culture Department, and Municipal Council. Inauguration will be done by Planning and Statistics Minister and District In-charge Minister D. Sudhakar. Leaders including T. Raghumurthy, B.G. Govindappa and Govind M. Karajol will attend the event. A procession will begin at 9 am from Ambedkar Circle to Veeravanite Onake Obavva Stadium with Buddhist chants. The program promotes peace and teachings of Lord Buddha, said Kannada and Culture Department officials in an official statement.

Talwar community protest over ST certificate delay in Kalaburagi

Talwar leaders said SC inclusion in 2020 exists, but certificate issuance has recently stalled in their region

KALABURAGI

A massive protest was held in Kalaburagi demanding Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificates for the Talwar community, with hundreds marching from Jagat Circle to the District Collector's office.

Members of the Karnataka State Talwar Samaj alleged that eligible people from their community are being denied ST certificates in Kalaburagi and Yadgiri districts, even though the facility is being issued in 29 other districts of Karnataka.

Protesters accused the district administration and District In-charge Minister Priyank Kharge of delaying or blocking the issuance of certificates and demanded immediate action. They also expressed anger over what they called political interference in the process.

Community leaders claimed that although the Talwar community was included in the Scheduled Caste category in 2020 and later provided eligibility for certificates, the issuance process has been stopped in recent years in the region.

They said that due to the delay, students are unable to access education benefits and job seekers are losing opportunities in government recruitment due to lack of validity certificates.

Talwar Samaj state president Sardara Rayappa said the situation has created confusion and hardship, questioning whether there is proper governance in the district. He alleged that certificates are being withheld despite eligibility.

Another leader Shivakumar Natikar said the community has been facing issues for the past two years and accused officials of ignoring government orders regarding certificate issuance.

Protesters also claimed that after the recent political changes and election results, government benefits for the community have been reduced in the district.Several community leaders, activists, and religious figures joined the protest, demanding equal rights and immediate resolution of the issue.They warned that continued delay would lead to further agitation and urged the government to ensure fair implementation of reservation benefits.

Officials have not yet issued a detailed response, but the protest ended peacefully after submitting a memorandum to the district administration.

The demonstration highlighted growing dissatisfaction among the community and increased pressure on authorities to resolve the long-standing certificate issue in Kalaburagi district.

Bangarappa slams BJP MLC over SSLC remarks

Bangarappa dismissed Vishwanath's remarks, highlighted Kalaburagi's SSLC improvement, and accused BJP of targeting Kharge leaders over district performance rankings

SHIVAMOGGA

School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa on Monday strongly criticised BJP MLC and former minister H. Vishwanath for his remarks on SSLC exam results, saying his comments insult teachers and parents by claiming that malpractice improved pass percentages. He said the department introduced webcasting during SSLC exams for the first time in India which helped stop cheating and improve fairness in the process.

He added that even CBSE and other boards are now following Karnataka's measures. He said he respects Vishwanath's age but does not consider his comments valuable. Responding to criticism about SSLC results in Kalaburagi Bangarappa said the district showed major improvement ranking second in the state with a 28.2 percent rise compared to last year. He also accused BJP leaders of targeting AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge because the district ranked last in some lists.

He said several steps helped improve results including hard work by teachers and officials across the department. For the first time a mega parent-teacher meeting was held and students needing support were given special attention. The department also conducted three preparatory exams at the state level and based on student performance teachers provided extra classes to help them perform better in final exams Bangarappa said these combined efforts of teachers parents and officials created a better learning environment and helped students score improved marks in the SSLC examination across Karnataka this year and said critics should acknowledge the progress made by the education department instead of spreading misinformation about exam malpractices during the SSLC results discussion in Shivamogga press meet held on Monday.

Jevargi formed committee to celebrate Dr B R Ambedkar's 135th birth anniversary on May 17 grandly

Committee formed for Ambedkar Jayanthi celebration

JEVARGI

A committee has been formed in Jevargi town to organise the 135th birth anniversary celebrations of Dr B R Ambedkar in a grand manner on May 17, leaders announced. The announcement was made during a press conference held at the town tourist hall, where the list of office bearers for the committee was also declared.

Shantappa Yalagoda has been elected as the honorary chairman of the committee, while Pundaleeka Gaikwad has been chosen as the chairman.

Several leaders have been appointed as vice presidents, including Santosh Channur, Mahadeva Kolakur, Srimantha Dhankar, Srishaila Mandewala, Vishwaraja Gamwara, Siddu Kerur, and Jagdev Jatnakar.

Davalappa Madanakara has been elected as the general secretary. Shivasaran Maradagi, Mapanna Katte, and Suresh Duganaka will serve as secretaries.Ravikumar Kulageri has been selected as the treasurer of the committee. An advisory committee has also been formed, including Chandrasekhar Haranala, Marappa Badigera, Shantappa Kudalagi, Subhash Channur, Bhimaraya Naganur, Mallanna Kodachi, and others.

The organisers said that the celebrations will focus on spreading Ambedkar's message of equality, social justice, and constitutional values among the public.

Several community leaders, former Zilla Panchayat members, and local representatives attended the meeting and supported the formation of the committee. They expressed confidence that the event would be conducted successfully with wide participation from the public.

JDS workers join Congress in Yadgir drive

YADGIR

Several workers from the Janata Dal (Secular) joined the Congress party in a formal programme held at the District Congress office in Yadgir, with leaders calling it a boost to the party's strength in the region.

Mandya Court awards life term in wife murder case

MANDYA

The 2nd Additional District and Sessions Court in Mandya has sentenced a man to life imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹1 lakh for murdering his wife over suspicion of her character.

The accused, Ajmal Khan (39), originally from Ramanagara Town Extension Layout and a resident of Dhanguru village in Halagur taluk of Malavalli, was found guilty of killing his wife Salma Begum.

According to the case details, Ajmal Khan married Salma Begum on January 1, 2005. The couple lived together for several years before tensions arose. The court was informed that the accused began mentally and physically harassing his wife, suspecting her fidelity.

Despite family members advising Salma Begum to stay strong and continue her life, the harassment reportedly continued. Later, she moved to stay at Abdul Jabbar's house along with her child.

On May 8, 2023, the accused allegedly came to the house around 11 am with one of his sons and suffocated Salma Begum, leading to her death.

A case was registered by Halagur police, and after investigation, a charge sheet was filed in court. Based on the evidence presented, the court found the accused guilty.

Judge Sayedunnisa delivered the verdict, sentencing Ajmal Khan to life imprisonment along with a monetary penalty. Government prosecutor Nagaraj K represented the prosecution in the case.

PREPARATORY MEETING HELD AHEAD OF EXAMINATIONS

CHNEWS,CHIKKABALLAPUR

With the Second PUC Examination-2 set to begin from April 30, District Magistrate G. Prabhu has directed officials to ensure a fair, transparent, and smooth conduct of exams across the district.

He issued these instructions during a preparatory meeting held at the District Magistrate's office on Monday.

A total of five examination centres have been set up in Chikkaballapur district, located in Chikkaballapur, Bagepalli, Gauribidanur, Shidlaghatta, and Chintamani. Around 5,353 students have registered for the examination. The District Magistrate said that admit cards have already been distributed online and instructed chief superintendents of all centres to take full responsibility for smooth conduct of exams.He emphasized that basic facilities such as drinking water, seating arrangements, lighting, and clean toilets must be ensured at all centres. Seating details should be clearly displayed for students before the examination begins.He also warned students and staff not to believe rumours on social media regarding question paper leaks and urged officials to remain highly alert as question papers and answer sheets are handled under strict security.The exams will be conducted under CCTV surveillance and webcasting. The use of mobile phones, smart watches, Bluetooth devices, earphones, and other electronic gadgets has been strictly banned inside examination halls.He further directed that Xerox shops near examination centres should remain closed on exam days and that a 200-metre radius around centres will be declared a restricted zone to prevent crowding.

Global conflicts linked to imperialist policies: Somashekhar

KALABURAGI

K Somashekhar said socialist revolution is possible through Shivdas Ghosh thoughts at SUCI (C) foundation day event in Kalaburagi. He was keynote speaker at 78th foundation day held at Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar Bhavan. He recalled party history saying Shivdas Ghosh founded SUCI (C) on April 24 1948 based on communist principles. He said other communist parties failed in struggle direction while SUCI became voice of workers and oppressed. He said capitalism is in crisis worldwide and imperialist war policies are making common people's lives difficult. He also expressed concern over Gaza violence affecting global peace. He said struggles in Sri Lanka Bangladesh and Nepal are inspiring but lack ideology and leadership. He added many movements go astray without real communist party and only Shivdas Ghosh ideology can guide people. He said socialist revolution is solution to country's problems and warned youth fighting spirit is weakening due to bad habits and cultural decline. He also criticized central and state government policies. District Secretary RK Veerabhadrappa gave introduction Ramanna Ibrahimpur presided and many leaders attended program which began with garlanding Shivdas Ghosh portrait and ended with International Anthem He emphasized that unity of workers and farmers is needed to build a strong socialist movement in society. He said the party will continue to educate people through meetings and public awareness programs across regions.

He said attendees listened carefully and the message focused on equality justice and socialist change inspiring discussion among participants in Kalaburagi meeting which concluded peacefully with slogans supporting workers unity and democratic rights under guidance of party leaders present at the foundation day celebration event in the city hall.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

PUC Exam-2 set to begin across Chitradurga district

CH NEWS,CHITRADURGA

The Second Pre-University Course (PUC) Examination-2 will be conducted in Chitradurga district from April 30 to May 13, with officials confirming all preparations are complete to ensure a smooth and orderly conduct of the exams.

A total of 4,270 students have registered for the examination this year, which will be held across six designated centres in the district. Additional Deputy Commissioner B. T. Kumaraswamy instructed officials to conduct the exams strictly as per guidelines and avoid any confusion or irregularities.

He emphasized that the exams must be conducted in a disciplined and transparent manner, following all rules set by the Karnataka School Examination and Evaluation Board. He also directed officials to remain alert and ensure peaceful conditions at all centres.

As a precautionary measure, prohibitory orders will be enforced within a 200-metre radius of all examination centres during exam days. Xerox shops and computer centres will remain closed in these restricted zones to prevent malpractice or disturbances.

Deputy Director of School Education (PU) K. Thimmaiah said that preparations have been completed and detailed arrangements have been made for smooth execution. He explained that among the 4,270 candidates, 2,540 are reappearing after failing in Exam-1, while others include repeat candidates from previous years, improvement candidates, and private registrants.

The examination will be conducted in Government PU Colleges located in Chitradurga city, Challakere, Hiriyur, Hosadurga, Molakalmuru, and Holalkere. Authorities have also arranged additional police security at all centres to ensure strict monitoring and safety.

QUICK READ

Kumta faces major power cut on April 29

Karwar

Due to emergency maintenance on the 33KV Gokarna line in Kumta subdivision, power will be cut in Gokarna section on April 29 from 10 am to 1 pm. Also conductor replacement work on the 11KV Bada and 11KV Masura lines and new 11KV line work on Mirjana and Katagala lines will cause outage from 10 am to 5 pm. Consumers are requested to cooperate said Kumta HESCOM Assistant Executive Engineer in a statement. Residents are advised to plan daily activities accordingly during the scheduled power interruption across affected areas. Officials have appealed for public cooperation.

Young software engineer dies suddenly after collapse

Young software engineer dies suddenly after collapse

Hassan

A 25-year-old software engineer Shweta BG collapsed while speaking to her mother and later died in a Bengaluru hospital despite treatment. She worked in Hassan for three years and fell ill at home after returning from work. Doctors suspected brain bleeding. She had complained of headaches in recent months. Family rushed her for care, but her condition worsened. Colleagues said she was dedicated and rarely took leave. Doctors advised organ donation, but delay prevented it.

Massive FMD vaccination drive launched

Separate syringes for each animal ensure safety; vaccinators will visit villages door-to-door to immunise livestock everywhere

CH NEWS, DAVANGERE

Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun launched the ninth round of the foot-and-mouth disease vaccination campaign under the National Livestock Disease Control Program in Davanagere on Monday through the Zilla Panchayat, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department at her home office. She said foot-and-mouth disease is a contagious viral disease affecting livestock and causes heavy financial losses to farmers. She said the free vaccination drive for cattle, buffaloes and calves under the national program will continue till May 22.

Officials said separate syringes and needles will be used for each animal to ensure safety during vaccination.

Vaccinators will visit villages and go door to door to immunise livestock in all areas. She urged farmers not to miss the opportunity and to cooperate with staff to protect animals and prevent losses. The aim is to make Karnataka a foot-and-mouth disease free state through strong vaccination coverage and awareness efforts. About 2,48,000 cows, buffaloes and pigs above four months of age will be vaccinated in the district.

She said the campaign is part of a national effort to improve livestock health and support farmers' income stability. She appealed to local administrations and veterinary staff to ensure full coverage without any lapse across the district.

Weeks-long awareness programs will also be conducted to educate farmers about disease prevention and benefits of vaccination.

Officials said the drive will strengthen rural animal health services and reduce economic burden on farmers by preventing outbreaks in the coming seasons across Karnataka districts with better coordination between veterinary departments and local bodies. She thanked staff and urged continued cooperation from farmers for successful completion of the vaccination campaign across district.

Official orders quick action on water crisis

CH NEWS, KARWAR

Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr Dileesh Shashi directed officials of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department to respond quickly to drinking water problems during summer and ensure immediate solutions. He chaired District Water and Sanitation Committee meeting held at Zilla Panchayat hall on Monday. Drinking water shortage has been reported in 41 Gram Panchayats and tankers are supplying water in 17 villages. 98 private borewells identified for supply and officials instructed to act immediately in affected villages. Pipelines in rural water systems must be maintained and water samples tested regularly to prevent contamination. He reviewed Jal Jeevan Mission works and directed departments to complete pending approvals and borewell permissions quickly. 745 works completed 685 handed to Gram Panchayats with 77.85 percent progress and financial progress 54.76 percent. He instructed officials to complete ongoing works at the earliest and ensure safe drinking water supply. The meeting was attended by district officials and engineers from the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department. He emphasized urgent response system for villages facing shortage especially during peak summer conditions across district. He also stressed regular water quality checks to prevent health risks among rural population. Officials were asked to monitor supply systems and ensure accountability in tanker distribution process. He said no village should suffer without drinking water and immediate action must be taken. Dr Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary Allah Bhakash Chief Accountant Anand Sahab Habib Executive Engineer Satyappa and other departmental officers attended the review meeting and supported implementation plans for improving rural drinking water supply across Karwar district in summer season ensuring safe drinking water access for all residents.

Drinking water shortage reported in 41 Gram Panchayats; tankers supply 17 villages. Officials act on borewells, Jal Jeevan Mission progress, and ensure safe water urgently

Australian Consul General visits Mangaluru city

MANGALURU

Australian Consul General Hilary McGeachy visited Mangaluru, highlighting growing cultural and educational ties between Australia and coastal Karnataka. The visit focused on strengthening people-to-people connections and promoting cooperation in education and community development.

During her visit, McGeachy met Most Rev. Dr Peter Paul Saldanha, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Mangaluru. The meeting was described as warm and friendly, with discussions centred on shared values such as service to society, education, and cultural understanding.

As a symbol of goodwill and friendship, both sides exchanged gifts, including a cricket ball, reflecting the common passion for cricket in both India and Australia.

The Consul General also visited St Aloysius High School, a well-known Jesuit institution in Mangaluru. She toured the campus and learned about the school's long-standing contribution to quality education and the overall development of students in the region.

Officials noted that the visit reflects Australia's efforts to build stronger relationships at the grassroots level, especially in areas like education, skill development, and cultural exchange.

McGeachy, who is the first Australian Consul General based in Bengaluru since 2023, has been actively engaging with Karnataka and Telangana to expand bilateral cooperation.

Local observers said such visits help create new opportunities for collaboration between institutions in both countries and strengthen academic and cultural ties.

Strict guidelines issued for PUC Exam-2

CH NEWS, HAVERI

Preparations for the Second PUC Exam-2, scheduled from April 30 to May 13, are underway in Haveri, with officials instructed to ensure a smooth, transparent, and malpractice-free conduct of examinations.

Additional District Magistrate Dr. Nagaraj A. chaired a review meeting at the District Magistrate's office and directed all officials to strictly follow examination guidelines and maintain confidentiality.

He said the exams will be conducted in seven centres across the district and stressed that officers, route supervisors, observers, and room invigilators must work in coordination and take full responsibility for their duties.

He warned against any irregularities and said students should be allowed to write exams in a fear-free environment.

A three-member committee has been formed in each taluk, consisting of the Tahsildar, Field Education Officer, and Principal, to handle question paper distribution. GPS tracking has been made mandatory for vehicles carrying question papers, which will be transported under police protection.

The ADM also instructed officials to ensure proper cleanliness in examination halls, along with basic facilities such as lighting, fans, drinking water, toilets, and clocks.

Special care has been advised while assigning invigilators, ensuring subject relevance and avoiding conflicts of interest, especially where supervisors' children are appearing for exams.

Security arrangements will include police deployment and health staff at all centres. CCTV surveillance has been made compulsory for handling question papers and answer scripts.

The use of mobile phones, smart devices, and other electronic gadgets has been strictly banned inside examination centres.

Vedavyasa Kamath hailed the verdict against Mohatmmed Shariq and called upon Congress to introspect over its soft approach towards terrorism.

Mangaluru blast verdict draws political reactions

MANGALURU

BJP MLA Vedavyasa Kamath has welcomed the special NIA court's decision to sentence Mohammed Shariq to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for his role in the Mangaluru cooker bomb blast that targeted the historic Kadri Manjunatha Temple.

The legislator stated that individuals inspired by ISIS, like Shariq, should serve as a strong deterrent for anyone considering the path of terrorism. He urged Congress leaders, who had earlier described such accused persons as "innocent brothers" and downplayed the incident as a "minor event," to undertake serious self-reflection.

Kamath questioned how the state could be protected when Congress continues to display a lenient attitude towards terrorists and terrorism. He added that the court verdict delivers a strong and unforgettable lesson to all those who choose the path of terror.Referring to the innocent victim of the blast, Purushottam Poojary, the MLA noted that the BJP government had already provided him with Rs. 5 lakh compensation and a new auto-rickshaw to help rebuild his life. He described the compensation as one form of justice and the court's punishment as another.

NMPA BOOSTS TRADE LINKS WITH MYSURU REGION

MANGALURU

NMPA held a business meeting with exporters and trade groups from Mysuru and Nanjangud to improve trade and shipping links. The event aimed to support export growth better logistics and stronger connection between industries and the New Mangalore Port Authority. It was inaugurated by NMPA Chairman Sushil Kumar Singh along with senior officials from the Ministry of Ports and Customs. Officials explained government plans for improving port facilities reducing delays and building a strong national logistics network. Trade leaders from Mysuru Chamber of Commerce shared concerns and requested better transport links and faster cargo movement. The port authority highlighted its expansion projects improved infrastructure and focus on customer friendly services for exporters. Customs officials assured cooperation to simplify procedures and make export processes smoother for all businesses in the region. The meeting also released a Golden Jubilee book marking fifty years of NMPA service to the nation. Industry participants took part in an open discussion about challenges in trade transport and port connectivity issues. Officials said such meetings will help improve coordination and strengthen Karnataka's role in international trade growth. They added that NMPA is working to become a key gateway for exports from Karnataka and nearby regions.

HIGHWAY SAFETY PETITION

Committee seeks action on frequent highway accidents

HOSAPETE

A petition was submitted to the District Collector by the Karunada Kalila Action Committee Vijayanagar seeking urgent steps to prevent frequent accidents on National Highway 50 near the outskirts of Hosapete. They demanded completion of the incomplete bridge and flyover work near Danapur to ensure safe movement of public vehicles. The committee said heavy traffic of iron ore lorries and growing inter state vehicle movement have increased road risks in the region.

They pointed out that accidents are caused by poor signage unsafe slopes missing speed breakers lack of police patrols and no proper speed control systems. The group urged authorities to install CCTV cameras enforce speed limits conduct drunk driving checks and improve safety at construction sites. They also demanded action against lorry drivers who violate traffic rules and cause repeated accidents on the highway. The committee warned that if authorities fail to respond they may launch road blockades on National Highway 50 to press their demands for immediate action and safety improvements. Local leaders including P Venkatesh Gujjal Ganesh M Dadakhalandar Manjunath and Wadiraj said they have been repeatedly raising concerns about unsafe road conditions in the area. They said the government must act quickly to complete pending infrastructure works.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PREM KUMAR P T S/o THIMMAIAH PB R/o No 13 Kavery Nivasa, Behind Sai Lakshmi Residency, Harokyathanahalli, Harokyathanahalli Bengaluru Karnataka - 562123, have changed the name of my minor son DITHIN P P aged 17 years and he shall hereafter be known as AGASTYA P P.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, H V RAVI KUMAR S/o VENKATACHALAIAH R R/o 20, Near Veeraswamy Reddy House, Veeraswamy Reddy Colony, Kadugodi Plantation, Kadugodi, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka-560067, have changed the name of my minor daughter R MANYA SHREE aged 17 years and she shall hereafter be known as MANYASHREE R.

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To place a classified ad contact:
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IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
C.Misc. No. 126/2020

Between: 1. Sri. Ramanjinappa, S/o late. Ramappa, aged about 58 years, **2. Sri. Shivalingaiah,** S/o late. Ramappa, aged about 55 years, **3. Smt. Parvathamma,** D/o late. Ramappa, aged about 48 years, All are R/at Gundappanayakahalli Village, Arudi Post, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District- 561 204 **...Petitioners**

And: The Tahsildar, The Registrar of Birth and Deaths, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District **...Respondent**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been made to this court Under Section 13(3) and 14 of birth and death's act 1969, r/w rule 9 (3) of Karnataka Registration of births and deaths, 1999 for issuance of death certificate of **Ramaiah** S/o. late Goravanna is the father of the Petitioners who died on 15.09.1983 at Gundappanayakanahalli, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

Any person/who have objection for the same are hereby called to appear in this court, in person or by pleader duly instructed on **29/05/2026** at **11:00 A.M.** forenoon to show cause against the petitioners, failing which is matter will be heard and treated as no objections from anybody.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 24/04/2026.

By order of the Court, Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl. Civil Jugde & JMFC, Doddaballapura

Advocate for Petitioners: **Shivakumara. G.S**

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
C.Misc.No. 138/2026

Between: Sri. Lalli Kumar, S/o late. Jayamma, aged about 28 years, R/at Gundappanayakahalli Village, Arudi Post, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District-561204 **...Petitioner.**

And: The Tahsildar, The Registrar of Birth and Deaths, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District **...Respondent**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that a petition has been made to this court Under Section 13(3) and 14 of birth and death's act 1969, r/w rule 9 (3) of Karnataka Registration of births and deaths, 1999 for issuance of death certificate of **Hanumappa** S/o. late Goravanna is the grandfather of the Petitioner who died on 06.10.1978 at Gundappanayakanahalli, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

Any person/who have objection for the same are hereby called to appear in this court, in person or by a pleader duly instructed on **29/05/2026** at **11:00 A.M.** forenoon to show cause against the petitioners, failing which is matter will be heard and treated as no objections from anybody.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 24/04/2026.

By order of the Court, Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl. Civil Jugde & JMFC, Doddaballapura

Advocate for Petitioners: **Shivakumara. G.S**

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
C.Misc. NO 119/2026

BETWEEN: SRI LINGAPPA S/O LATE DODDANANJAPPA, aged about 73 years ,residing at Talagavara village, kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

- petitioner

AND: The Tahashildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural district --respondant

PUBLIC NOICE

Whereas the petitioner have filed above petition for obtaining Death Certificate of Late parvathamma w/o lingappa, is the wife of petitioner, Who died on 15-08-1987 at Talagavara village, kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural Distract. if there are any persons having claim, they may appear before Hon'ble court in person or through pleader on this 10.06.2026 at 11,A.M, failing which the petition will disposed of according to law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on 24.04.2026

By Order of the Court,
Chief Ministerial officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballpura

Advocate for petitioner: **Prakash,** Advocate Doddaballapura.

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
C. Misc. No. 127/2026

Between: 1. Smt.Rajamma, D/o late. Chikkahanumanthaiah, aged about 68 years, **2. Sri. Lakshmipathaiah,** S/o late Chikkahanumanthaiah, aged about 65 years, **3. Smt. Rathnamma,** D/o late. Chikkahanumanthaiah, aged about 62 years, **4. Sri. Prema Chandraiah,** S/o. late. Chikkahanumanthaiah, aged about 60 years, **5. Smt. Lakshmamma,** D/o. late. Chikkahanumanthaiah, aged about 60 years, All are R/at Gundappanayakahalli Village, Arudi Post, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District- 561 204 **...Petitioner**

AND: 1. The Tahsildar, The Registrar of Birth and Deaths, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, **2. Smt. Jayalakshmamma,** W/o late. Lingappa, aged about 60 years, **3. Sri. Mahesha,** S/o late. Lingappa, aged about 40 years, Respondents 2 & 3 are R/at No.1576, 39th Main, D Groop, Srigandhada Kavalu, Annapoorneshwarinagar, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru -560091 **...Respondents**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to General public that a petition has been made to this court Under Section 13(3) and 14 of birth and death's act 1969, r/w rule 9 (3) of Karnataka Registration of births and deaths, 1999 for issuance of death certificate **Chikkahanumanthaiah** S/o. late Goravanna is the father of the Petitioners and father in law of 2nd Respondent and grand father of the 3rd Respondent who died on 23/04/1983 at Gundappanayakanahalli, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

Any person/who have objection for the same are hereby called to appear in this court, in person or by a pleader duly instructed on **29/05/2026** at **11:00 A.M.** forenoon to show cause against the petitioners, failing which is matter will be heard and treated as no objections from anybody.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 24/04/2026.

By order of the Court, Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl. Civil Jugde & JMFC, Doddaballapura

Advocate for Petitioners: **Shivakumara. G.S**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase the below-mentioned schedule of property from its owners, namely: Mrs. Sulochana Jackson, W/o Bishop Dr. M. Francis Jackson and Bishop Dr. M. Francis Jackson, S/o Mr. Murugesh Both residing at: No. 12, 3rd Main, Appaiah Layout, Saraswatipuram, Bangalore North, Bangalore - 560008. If any person(s) has any objection, claim, interest, or dispute in respect of the above intended sale transaction, such person(s) may contact the undersigned along with documentary proof substantiating their claim/objection/dispute within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication. Failing which, my client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above-mentioned owners, treating that there are no third-party claims, objections, or disputes in respect of the schedule property. Thereafter, no claims, objections, or disputes shall be entertained.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY All that piece and parcel of dry land property measuring 3.06 acres out of 5.10 guntas (out of 4.13 acres plus 37 guntas of kharab), bearing: Survey No.: 6 (Six). Situated at: Garudadrahally Village, Bethamangala Hobli, Then Bangarpet Taluk, now K.G.F. Taluk.

Boundaries: East: Survey No. 8, West: Survey No. 4, North: Survey No. 7, South: Road and remaining land measuring 1.07 acres in the same Survey No.6

T.G. Manmatha Reddy
P. Suvarna Reddy Advocates
Kolar 563101
Mobile: 9008122611
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India enters advanced nuke era with PFBR milestone

'The indigenously developed 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam reached its first criticality on April 6'

NEW DELHI

India has taken a significant step in its nuclear energy programme with the successful achievement of first criticality at its Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR), positioning the country to join an exclusive group of nations operating advanced nuclear technology at a commercial level.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh announced that the indigenously developed 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam reached its first criticality on April 6.

This milestone marks the beginning of the second stage of India's three-stage nuclear power programme, a long-term strategy aimed at maximising the use of the country's limited uranium resources and abundant thorium reserves.

The reactor has been designed by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research and constructed by BHAVINI. It uses uranium-plutonium mixed oxide fuel and is capable of producing more fissile material than it consumes, a defining feature of fast breeder reactors.

Once fully operational, India will become the second country after Russia to run a commercial-level fast breeder reactor. Currently, Russia remains the only nation with such operational capability, while other countries like the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Japan, Germany, and China have either discontinued or limited their fast reactor programmes.

The achievement is seen as a critical step toward unlocking India's vast thorium reserves, which are expected to play a central role in the third stage of the nuclear programme. By generating more fuel than it consumes, the reactor enhances fuel efficiency and reduces long-term dependency on imported nuclear materials.

Speaking at a workshop on small modular reactors, Singh highlighted the broader importance of nuclear energy in India's clean energy transition. He stated that nuclear power will be vital in meeting the country's target of achieving 100 gigawatts of nuclear capacity by 2047, contributing to sustainability and energy security. He also pointed out that emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence, data infrastructure, and advanced manufacturing will require stable and continuous energy supplies, further underlining the importance of nuclear power in India's future economic growth.

With this milestone, India has moved closer to becoming a global leader in advanced nuclear technology, reinforcing its commitment to clean energy and long-term energy independence.

Major nuclear milestone

* India's 3-stage Nuclear Programme, PEFB marks significant step towards the second stage of the programme, paving the way for future use of India's vast thorium reserves.

* Under the recently launched "Nuclear Mission", 5 Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are planned by 2033.

* SHANTI Act to enable participation of the private sector in scaling up India's nuclear energy capacity.

Nominations open for PM Rashtriya Bal Puraskar till July 31

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Women and Child Development on Monday announced that nominations for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) will remain open until July 31. This national-level award is presented every year to recognise exceptional achievements of children aged between 5 and 18 years who are Indian citizens residing in the country.

The award honours young achievers across a range of fields, including bravery, sports, social service, science and technology, environment, and arts and culture. The Ministry stated that nominations can be submitted by any citizen, including self-nominations, but only through the National Awards Portal.

In a related development, the Ministry of Home Affairs has also issued a reminder that July 31 is the last date for submitting nominations and recommendations for the Padma Awards, which will be announced on Republic Day 2027. The nomination process, which began on March 15, is being conducted entirely online through the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal.

The Padma Awards—Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri—are among the highest civilian honours in the country. Nominations must include all required details in the prescribed format, along with a citation of up to 800 words highlighting the nominee's exceptional achievements or service.

Instituted in 1954, the Padma Awards recognise distinguished contributions across diverse fields such as art, literature, education, sports, medicine, science, public affairs, civil service, and industry.

Nitin Nabin opens 7 BJP district offices in Rajasthan

JAIPUR

Nitin Nabin on Monday inaugurated a newly constructed Bharatiya Janata Party district office in Rajasthan's Tonk during his first visit to the state after assuming charge as the party's national president.

The visit highlighted the party's focus on strengthening its organisational presence across the region.

Alongside the inauguration in Tonk, Nabin virtually launched BJP district offices in Bundi, Pratapgarh, Barmer, Churu, Dungarpur, and Pali. He also laid the foundation stone for a new party office in Jalore, marking a coordinated push to expand infrastructure across multiple districts.

Addressing party workers, Nabin reflected on his early political journey and stressed the symbolic importance of party offices. He described them as more than physical structures, calling them centres of ideological strength and organisational resolve. He also underscored the party's commitment to grassroots outreach, noting that the state government is working to ensure welfare schemes reach the last mile.

Highlighting the growth of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Nabin said the party has evolved from a marginal presence with just two Members of Parliament to becoming the largest political organisation globally. He credited this transformation to the dedication and sacrifices of party workers, adding that the BJP is currently in power in 21 states.

Nabin also spoke about opportunities for youth in Rajasthan, pointing to developments in renewable energy and emerging economic sectors. He said the government's focus on entrepreneurship and self-employment would help young people transition from job seekers to job creators.

He further highlighted the role of initiatives like the Rising Rajasthan Investment Summit in generating employment opportunities.

The event also featured remarks from Radhamohan Das Agarwal, who made pointed political comments targeting Sachin Pilot, the MLA from Tonk. Agarwal criticised Pilot's connection to the constituency, adding a political edge to the otherwise organisational event. Nabin concluded by noting that the BJP now has offices in over 600 districts nationwide, describing them as hubs for strengthening both ideology and organisational capacity as the party looks to expand further.

Bengal polls: EC warns false voting leads to imprisonment

KOLKATA

Ahead of the second and final phase of West Bengal Assembly polls, the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday warned that any attempt at false voting will attract strict legal action, including imprisonment for the individuals making such attempts.

The office of the state Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) said that in all the polling booths, there would be Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled CCTV cameras enabling efficient web-casting, and these would have a direct connection with the central control room at the CEO's office in Kolkata as well as with the district control rooms at the offices of the district magistrates-cum-district electoral officers.

Constant monitoring of the activities within the polling booths will be done from the control rooms. So anyone making false voting attempts could be easily identified, tracked and arrested, a CEO's office functionary said.

The ECI made it clear that the false voting attempts are punishable under Section 172 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, where the offender is punishable up to one year of rigorous imprisonment.

Even if such attempts are done accidentally or carelessly, legal complications cannot be avoided. This is necessary to maintain the principle of 'one person, one vote'. If there is any complaint or suggestion related to the election, the common man can directly contact the Commission either by calling a toll-free number or by sending an email, the CEO's office functionary said. The second phase of elections for 142 Assembly constituencies will be done under blanket security coverage of 2,407 companies of central forces in addition to personnel from West Bengal Police and Kolkata.

There will be a total of 142 general observers, that is one for each of the 142 Assembly constituencies, and 95 police observers, up from 84 in the first phase of polling for 152 assembly constituencies on April 23. The results will be declared on May 4.

Don't worry about Didi's goons: Shah tells Bengal voters

NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday urged voters in West Bengal to cast their votes without fear, assuring them of strong security during the second phase of Assembly elections on April 29. In a message shared on X, Shah said people should not worry about "Didi's goons," referring to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, and highlighted that central forces have been deployed extensively to maintain order. He added that the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), deployed by the Election Commission of India, would remain in place for 60 days even after the results on May 4, ensuring continued protection for voters. Shah also expressed confidence that a BJP government would be formed after the elections. His appeal came as campaigning ended for the second phase, covering 142 Assembly constituencies.

Sabarmati bullet train bridge work sees progress

AHMEDABAD

Construction of a 36-metre-high bridge over the Sabarmati River is progressing steadily as part of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (Bullet Train) project, with several key structural milestones already achieved, officials said. The bridge, approximately 480 metres in length and comparable in height to a 12-storey building, is being built alongside the Western Railway's Ahmedabad-Delhi main line. It is situated between the proposed Sabarmati and Ahmedabad high-speed rail stations, around one km from Sabarmati station and about four km from Ahmedabad station. All eight circular piers, each measuring between 6 and 6.5 metres in diameter, have been completed.

Mother, son killed in accident in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh

HAZARIBAGH

In a tragic road accident in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh district on Monday, a mother and her son lost their lives on the spot after the car they were travelling in rammed into a stationary Hyva truck parked along the roadside. Two other members of the family sustained critical injuries in the crash. According to police and local sources, the incident occurred under the Muffasil police station limits when the family of Mahavir Prasad was returning from a wedding ceremony in Patna. During the journey, their vehicle collided with the rear end of a Hyva truck that had been stationed on the roadside.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENTDIVISION, BELAGAVI.
PH NO.0831-2463850 / FAX NO.0831-2423008

No.EE /MI&GWDDD/BGM/TND/AE/2026-27/186 Date:27-04-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-1,2,3&4)

As per KTTP Act-2000 and recent Amendments the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division Belagavi has invited the Item rate tender through KPPP (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Total 09 Nos. of Belagavi/Gokak/Athani Sub Divisions. Estimate Amount Highest Rs.323.00 Lakhs & Lowest Rs.8.50 Lakh. 1. For KW-4 work: Date of Pre-tender meeting:05-05-2026 at 11.00 AM, 2.Tender Receipt Last Date:06-05-2026 Evening 4.00 PM, 3. Tender Opening Date:07-05-2026 Evening 4.30 PM (if possible), 4. For Tender Details office address: Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division Belagavi & www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
M.I & GWDD Division, Belagavi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-161/KSMCA/2026-27

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Zone-2,
Malleshwaram Division, 2nd Cross Road,
Jaladarshini Layout, MSR Nagar, Mathikere, Bengaluru - 560054.

No: EE(MLM)/TN/KPPP/01/2026-27 Date: 27-04-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Single Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, Zone-2, BWCC, Bengaluru invites item rate Tenders from registered Contractors in BWCC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organization for the Works detailed below.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-1)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1	Establishment of Temporary Control Room for Monsoon Period in Ward No. 48, 49, 50 & 54 Mathikere Sub Division for the year 2026-27. **(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 8.39, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 20,987/-**
2	Establishment of Temporary Control Room for Monsoon Period in Ward No. 51, 52 & 53 Malleshwaram Sub Division for the year 2026-27. **(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 6.31, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 15,778/-**
3	Establishment of Temporary Control Room for Monsoon Period in Ward No. 55, 56 & 57 Subramanyanagara Sub Division for the year 2026-27. **(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 6.31, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 15,778/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 29-04-2026, 16.30 Hours onwards. 2)** Last Date and Time for Uploading the Tender Documents on **08-05-2026 upto 16.30 Hours. 3)** Date of Opening of Tender: **11-05-2026 at 15.00 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Malleshwaram Division, Zone-2, BWCC.

GOVERNMENT OF KARANATAKA
KALYAN KARNATAKA REGION DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Opp. Aiwan-E-Shahi, Kalaburagi-585102, Karnataka
Phone No: 08472-256767 Fax No: 08472-227527 hkadbgulb@gmail.com

KKRDB/ACC/AS-2/33/2025-26/640 Date : 24/04/2026

:: ADDENDUM NOTIFICATION ::

The following addendum is made in the e-Auction tender notification No : KKRDB/ACC/AS-2/33/2025-26/504 dated : 17/04/2026 After Si No. (xxviii) of (General Instructions and conditions) the following new condition is inserted.

(xxix) Bidders may quote rate of interest for non-callable.

No change in the rest of the tender notification conditions cited above.

Sd/- Deputy Secretary
KKRDB Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/84/KSMC&A/2026-27

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LTD
MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED
FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD
CIN : U65923KL2010PLC039179
Regd Office: 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherppu - Thriprayar Road, Thriprayar, Thrissur, Kerala 680567 | **Phone No.:** 0487-3520504, **Website:** www.manappuramhomefin.com

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of **Manappuram Home Finance Ltd ("MAHOFIN")** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest *[Act], 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice** calling upon the borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and Interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic** possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said *[Act] read with rule 9 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Manappuram Home Finance Ltd as mentioned below for each of the respective properties:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower and Co-borrower / Loan account number/ Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	Date of Demand Notice sent & Outstanding Amount	Date of Possession
1	Amitha Bai Bai, Praveen Naik Naik, **/MHL00510009283/** Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Site/Property No. 207/2P, E-Property No. 152400404000200157, Measuring Total 235.79 Sq. Meter, Including 74.32 Sq. Meter Building, Situated At Goddanakoppa Village, Goddanakoppa Village Panchayath, Shikaripura Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka, Pin: 577427. East-Property of Praveen Naika, West-Property of Gangadhara Naika, South-Road, North-Road	13-01-2026 & Rs.430072/-	25-04-2026
2	Siddaraju R, Kamalamma T, Siddartha K S, **/NHL00920000578/** Vinayanagar Ramnagara	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 680/595/3, Pl.D.No.152900101300100791, Situated At Kodamballi Village, Kodamballi Grama Panchayath, Channapatna Taluk And Ramanagara Dist, East To West: 7.62 Mtr And North To South: 19.812 Mtr, Karnataka, Pin: 562138. East-Site of Chowdamma Wife Gurusiddaiah, West-Property of Channaiah S/O Gurusiddaiah, South-Shed of Kadaiah & House of Channaiah, North-Road	13-01-2026 & Rs.511898/-	25-04-2026
3	Ninganna N, Gayathri N, Somanna R, **/NHL00900006275/** Vivekananda Circle	All That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing Khatha Assessment No. 367 Property No 13/110 Pl.D No. 50-503-77, Situated At Ward No. 28 Hosa Nayakara Street Mudigunda Kollegala Block, Chamarajnagar (D) 13th Ward, Measuring East To West: 9.144 Meters And North To South: 7.62 Meters, Karnataka, Pin: 571440. East-Property of Chandru, West-Road, South-Property of Nanjanayaka, North-Property of Madesh	13-01-2026 & Rs.261147/-	25-04-2026
4	Mahesh A, Leelavathi N, Sudeep M, **/NLAP00900033447/** Vivekananda Circle	Property No 247, Unique No. 152200103400100174, Hadanuru Dhakale, Badagalapura Village, Hadanuru Gramap, Saraguru Taluk, Mysore District, Karnataka, Pin: 571121 Total Measuring 534.19 Meters. East-Road, West-Road, South-House Belongs To Nagarajegowda, North-House Belongs To Late Ningarajegowda	13-01-2026 & Rs.841758/-	25-04-2026
5	Prakash Annappa Nuli, Sunita Prakash Nuli, Sahashikant Bastwadi, **/NHL00980017210/** Belgaum	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Property Bearing G.PNo.1516/A, RdprPl.D.No.150400605000101662, Situated At Hebbal Village, Hebbal Grama Panchayat, Hukkeri Block, Belagavi (D). Admeasuring: 98.70 Sq. Meters, Karnataka, Pin: 591221. East-Property of Mallappa Dundappa Mathapati, West-Property of Rekha Girish Kholi, South-Road, North-Gutter	14-01-2026 & Rs.462138/-	25-04-2026
6	Manjunath M Kotambari, Veerappa Mukhappa Kotambari, Geeta Devappa Madli, Shila Jagadish Angadi, Laxmi Ninganagouda Doddagoudra, **/NHL00260026443/** Hubli	Residential Gramthana Property Bearing Vpc No.290, Property No.151700203700400379, Total Measuring 460.31 Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 116.00Sq Mtr, Situated At Kadashettihalli Village Within Sanvasagi Gram Panchayat, Tq: Hangal & Dist: Haveri, Karnataka, Pin: 581104. East-Property of Siddalingayya Nishimayya Pujar, West-Gram Panchayat Road, South-Property of Kuberappa Shekharappa Kotambari, North-Property of Neelavva Mahadevappa Kotambari	14-01-2026 & Rs.512598/-	25-04-2026
7	Srinivas M, Sunandamma S, Lakkamma M, Manjunatha P, **/NHL00930032465/** Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of The House Bearing Bearing KathaNo.311 AndE-KathaNo.152500700900701406 Measuring East To West: 9.144 Meters And North To South: 12.192 Meters, Situated At Naduru Village, Gowdagere Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka, Pin: 572135. East-Remaining Property, West-13 Feet Road, South-House of G. Gaythiramma., North-A. K. Colony	14-01-2026 & Rs.493450/-	25-04-2026
8	Murtusab Usmanasab Walikar, Bibijan Usmansab Walikar, Usmanasab Mabusab Walikar, Afreen Murtujasab Walikar, Mammadakhaja Husen Walikar, **/NHL00260031763/** Hubli	Residential Gramthana Property Bearing Vpc No.695, Property No.150100400600400539, Total Measuring 60.50Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 60.50Sq Mtr, Situated At Nandawadagi Village, Tq: Ilakal & Dist: Bagalkot, Karnataka, Pin: 587125. East-Property of Murtujasab Usmajasab Walikar, West-Road, South-Property of Durgavva Durgappa Harijan, North-Road	14-01-2026 & Rs.522317/-	25-04-2026
9	Shekhar T R, Rajegowda, **/MHL00900047967/** Vivekananda Circle	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 52, Pl.D No. 152100101000300088, Situated At Ternenahalli Grama, Hariharapura Gramapanchayat, Krishnarajapete Block, Mandya (D)., Admeasuring: 111.480000 Sq Mts. Karnataka, Pin: 571605. East-Road, West-Property of Gaviyamma, South-House of Chandregowda, North-House of Kuchelamma	14-01-2026 & Rs.276270/-	25-04-2026
10	Hanamappa Madar, Sharanavva Madar, Yamanappa Parasappa Madar, **/NHL00260048681/** Hubli	Residential Property Bearing Vpc No.284/13, Property No.150100101700220049, Total Measuring 135.220000Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 135.220000Sq Mtr, Situated At Mangalagudda Village, Tq: Guledgudda & Dist: Bagalkote, Karnataka, Pin: 587202. East-Road, West-Plot No. 07, South-Plot No. 12, North-Open Property	14-01-2026 & Rs.423308/-	25-04-2026
11	Ningaraju N, Puttamma D, Shobha C, **/NHL00340026265/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No.4/402(144/134), Situated At J. P. Nagara, Khill Mohalla, Mysuru City Karnataka, Pin: 570008 Measuring: East To West 19.00 Feet And North To South 46.50 Feet, Out of East To West 42.00 Feet And North To South 46.50 Feet. East-Property Belongs To Mahadeva, West-Common Passage & Property Belongs To B & C Schedule, South-Shanidevara Temple, North-Road	15-01-2026 & Rs.509172/-	25-04-2026
12	Gangamma, Nagaraju K, Mani Kumar C, **/NHL00930049076/** Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Building Bearing Grama Panchayath Khatha No.103/201 And E-Khatha No.150300301100200125 Measuring East To West: 10.3632 Mtrs And North To South: 7.315200 Mtrs Is Situated At Nagasandra Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Karnataka, Pin: 561203. East-House Belongs To NK Narasimhamurthy, West-House Belongs To Narasimappa, South-Road, North-Road	15-01-2026 & Rs.987265/-	25-04-2026

Date: 28th April 2026 | Place: KARNATAKA **Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd**

CH CLASSIFIEDS
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QUICK READ

Pedestrian dragged to death by speeding bus in MP's Morena

Morena

A horrific road accident on Jaura Road in Morena claimed the life of a forty-year-old woman on Monday morning after she was struck and dragged by a speeding bus, officials said. The victim, identified as Kamla Baghel, a resident of Baripura, was attempting to cross the road around 10 a.m. when the vehicle knocked her down. In a sequence of events described by authorities as particularly brutal, the driver failed to apply the brakes after the initial impact, instead dragging the woman for approximately thirty feet along the pavement. The severity of the incident resulted in her immediate death at the scene.

MP govt to challenge HC order on RTO check posts

The HC, through its Jabalpur Bench, had on April 22 directed the state to make all defunct check posts operational within 30 days

BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government has decided to challenge a recent directive by the Madhya Pradesh High Court ordering the reopening of all Regional Transport Office (RTO) check posts.

Speaking to reporters at the state Assembly, Singh confirmed that the government is preparing to move a Division Bench against the High Court's order issued by its Jabalpur Bench. The directive, passed on April 22, instructed the state to make all defunct RTO check posts operational within 30 days. The court was hearing a contempt petition filed by Rajneesh Tripathi.

The Bench, led by Justice Vishal Mishra, stressed the importance of physical check posts in ensuring road safety and regulatory compliance. It observed that such checkpoints are essential for monitoring heavy vehicles, preventing overloading, and curbing unauthorized transport operations.

The court noted that the state government had previously assured that the check posts would remain functional but later shut them down on June 30, 2024. This action, the Bench said, violated both earlier court directions and the government's own undertaking. The closure, according to the court, weakened enforcement mechanisms, increased the risk of road accidents, and led to a rise in illegal transport activities.

Rejecting the state's reliance on alternative measures such as mobile enforcement units and faceless monitoring systems, the court described these approaches as ineffective. It further emphasized that assurances given by the government carry the same binding value as judicial orders and must be adhered to strictly.

The public interest litigation, filed in 2025, raised concerns over enforcement gaps following the shutdown of check posts. The petitioner argued that overloaded vehicles were causing damage to roads and public infrastructure, while violations such as operating without permits had increased significantly.

The High Court has made it clear that its directions are mandatory and warned that failure to comply within the stipulated timeframe could lead to contempt proceedings against responsible officials.

Bihar STF's crackdown on crime, Naxal networks

PATNA

The initiative aims to choke the flow of funds to left-wing extremists in the state

The Bihar Special Task Force has reported major progress in its ongoing crackdown on organised crime and Naxalite activity, with officials stating that coordinated operations in recent months have significantly improved law and order across the state.

Addressing a press conference at the Police Headquarters in Patna, Deputy Inspector General of Police Sanjay Kumar Singh, accompanied by DIG Niraj Kumar, detailed the outcomes of operations conducted between January 1 and April 22. He revealed that the Special Task Force carried out 10 encounters during this period, resulting in the deaths of three criminals and injuries to seven others.

Singh stated that these actions have dealt a significant blow to organised criminal networks and contributed to strengthening the overall law and order situation in the state. The STF has also made notable gains in its anti-Naxalite campaign, with key surrenders marking a shift in the security landscape.

Among the major developments, a wanted Naxalite leader carrying a reward of Rs 3 lakh laid down arms and rejoined mainstream society. Another criminal with a Rs 2 lakh bounty also surrendered. According to Singh, these steps indicate that extremist activities in Bihar have been brought under substantial control.

However, he noted that vigilance continues in sensitive regions such as Jamui, Lakhisarai, Gaya, and Aurangabad, where authorities are maintaining close surveillance to prevent any resurgence.

The STF has also intensified its focus on dismantling organised crime syndicates, including land mafias and illegal financial operations. Officials said that criminal assets are being identified and cases are being referred under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act to the Enforcement Directorate for further action. In addition, targeted operations were carried out in border districts such as Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Supaul, Araria, Kishanganj, West Champaran, and East Champaran. These drives led to significant seizures of narcotics, including heroin, ganja, opium, and codeine syrup, along with multiple arrests.

To enhance operational efficiency, the STF has increasingly deployed advanced technologies such as drones and aerial surveillance, combined with coordinated raids by Special Operations Groups.

MANAPPURAM HOME **MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED**
FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD
CIN : U65923KL2010PLC039179

Regd Office: 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherppu - Thriprayar Road, Thriprayar, Thrissur, Kerala 680567
Phone No.: 0487-3520504, **Website:** www.manappuramhomefin.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd., having our registered office at 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherppu - Thriprayar Road, Thriprayar, Thrissur, Kerala 680567 and branches at various places in India (hereinafter referred to as "MAHOFIN") is a Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and a Financial Institution within the meaning of sub-clause (iv) of clause (m) of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002 (hereinafter referred so as the Act) read with Notification No. S.O. 3466 (E) dated 18th December, 2015 issued by the Govt. of India, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, inter alia carrying on business of advancing loans for construction and / or purchase of dwelling units and whereas the Borrower / Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No. 2 of the below mentioned chart obtained loan from MAHOFIN and whereas MAHOFN being the secured creditor under the SARFAESI Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons. That in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name Of The Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Lan/Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	Npa Date	Date Of Notice Sent & Outstanding Amount
1	Suma S, Sanjeeva H E, /MHL00510012271/ Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There on Being Bearing Site/A Property No. 27/1, Sl No. 179, Measuring 24 X 62 Feet, Situated At Gama Village, Gama Village Panchayath, Shikaripura Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka, Pin: 577427. East-Property of Mariyamma W/O Kumarappa, West-Property of Prema W/O Doddappa, South-Conservancy Road And Drainage, North-Village Panchayath Road	02-04-2026	06-04-2026 & Rs.438543/-
2	Dinesh Naik, K M Asharani, Bali Bai, Balaji Naika, /NHL00910048694/ Hassan	All That Piece And Parcel of The Site And House Property Bearing Property Id No. 151600600101200068, Gram Panchayath Property No. 58, Survey No. 1 And Property Situated At Idhalla Kaval Village, Yalagundha Gram Panchayath, Hassan Taluk And District Measuring East To West: 7.62 Meters And North To South: 17.0688 Meters, Karnataka, Pin: 573219. East-Conservancy And House Property of Sri. Ramesh Naik., West-Conservancy And House Property of Smt. Sudhabai, South-Road, North-Agricultural Property of Sri. Balaji Naik.	10-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.908200/-
3	Devarajamma R, Lohith Kumara N R, Rashmi R, /MHL00910032351/ Hassan	All That Piece And Parcel of The Site And House Property Bearing No.151600701100220084 Gram Panchayath Property No. 236, Survey No. 151/13 And Property Situated At Niduvani Village, Niduvani Gram Panchayath, Holenarasipura Taluk And Hassan District, Totally Measuring 91.79 Square Meters, Karnataka, Pin: 573210. East-Road, West-Own Property, South-House Property of Sri. Jayadevappa, North-House Property of Smt. Gowramma	10-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.423430/-
4	Hemavathi P, Nagesha S, Ningamma J, /MHL00340034339/ Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No.30D/17B/1, P.I.D. No.152200100606700037, Situated At Hampapura Village, Hampapura Gramapanchayath, Heggadadevanakote Taluk, Mysuru District, Measuring Totally 103.87 Square Meters, Karnataka, Pin: 571125. East-5 Feet Pathway Belongs To Somegowda And Ningamma And House, West-Panchayath Road, South- Vacant Site Belongs To Ramegowda S/O Late Mariswame- gowda., North-Vacant Place Of Sri Rama Mandira	10-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.358578/-
5	Parashuram Madar, Shakuntala Madar, Basavaraj Hosamani, /NHL00260042195/ Hubli	Residential Gramthana Property Bearing Gp No.716/2, Property No.150100400600420260, Total Measuring 24.70Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 24.70Sq Mtr Situated At Nandavadagi Village, Tq: Ilakal & Dist: Bagalkot, Karnataka, Pin: 587125. East-Property of Shankravva L Madar, West-Road, South-Passage Road, North-Property of Shankravva L Madar	10-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.330609/-
6	Nagaraja Naik, Lalitha Bai, Viayalakshmi T, /NHL00930034203/ Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of The House Bearing Katha No.152/1.154/28 And E-Katha No.152500701500320480 Measuring East To West: 9.144 Meters And North To South: 3.9624 Meters, Situated At Manangi Village, Kasaba Hobli Sira Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka, Pin: 572137. East-Temple of Durgamma, West-Road, South-House of Smt. Sharadha Bai W/O Govindanaik., North-House of Narayana Naik	11-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.730964/-
7	Kumar K, Shivakka C, Chandrappa K, /NHL00480028991/ Davangare	All That Piece And Parcel of Village Panchayath Property No.19, E-Swathu No. 151200600600420018, Measuring 5.18 X 10.36 Meter = 53.72 Sq. Mtrs. Wherein House Constructed Measuring 53.72 Sq.mts Situated At Anabur Gollarahatti Village, Jagalur Taluk, Karnataka, Pin: 577528. East-House of Eshappa, West-Kana of Kariyappa, South-House of Katappa, North-Road	13-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.536407/-
8	Neela Bai, Dihya Naik S, /MHL00480016765/ Davangare	All That Piece And Parcel of Village Panchayath Property No. 99, E-Swathu 151200601200300512 Measuring 9.7536 X 9.4488 Meter I.e = 92.16 Sq. Situated At Gurusiddapura Village, Gurusiddapura Gram Panchayath, Jagaluru Taluk, Davangere, Karnataka, Pin: 577513. East-Road, West-House of Dakanaika, South-House of Ravinaik, North-Road	13-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.364020/-
9	Roopa Bai A, Dilip Nayaka, Charan Raj S, /MHL00480010319/ Davangare	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property No. 19 E Swathu No. 151200601200300431 Measuring 12.192 X 6.096 Mts I.e 74.32 Sq. Mts Situated At Gurusiddapura Village Gurusiddapura Gram Panchayath Jagaluru, Karnataka, Pin: 577513. East-Vacant Property of Anjuri Naik, West-Vacant Property of Shantha Naik, South- Road, North- Road	13-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.338437/-
10	Nagarathnamma, Somachari K N, Nagaraju, /MHL00340041045/ Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing Janjer No. 366, Property No. 13, P.I.D. No. 152200601048000491, Situated At Komalapura Grama, Komalapura Gramapanchayath, Periyapatna Block & Mysore (D)., Karnataka, Pin: 571102 Admeasuring: 111.41 Sq Mts. East-House of Sundaramma, West-Site of Lalithamma, South-Property of K T Chandrahasa & M G Siddaramegowda, North-Road	13-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.319218/-
11	Renuka T, Ramesh B A, Nikil R, Chudamani Y, /MLAP0051033559/ Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Site/Property No. 91,E- Property No. 152400202100600093, Measuring Total 148.64 Sq. Meter, Including 111.48 Sq. Meter Situated At Bidarahalli Village, Amrutha Village Panchayath, Hosanagara Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka, Pin: 577436. East-Road, West-Survey No. 67, South-Survey No. 67, North-Survey No. 67	13-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.319615/-
12	Enigi Muskhan M, Altaf Ugranada, Nabisab K, /MHL00480021862/ Davangare	All That Piece And Parcel of The Immovable House Bearing Assessment No 173/A, P.I.D. No. 7-504-7, Measuring As East To West 3.657607 Mts And North To South 6.858014 Mts, Situated At Ward No 13 Islampete, Huvinahadagali. Vijayanagara Dist, Karnataka, Pin: 583219. East-House Of Varad Gafar Sab, West-House of Fakrudin, South-Road, North-House of Ismail Sab	13-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.312771/-
13	Renukamma, Thippeswamy, Pavan, /MLAP0130037901/ Chitradurga	Property Khatha No.540, E-Swathu No.151000202600600607 Measuring Total:84.51 Sq Mtr, Situated At Lakshmisagara Village, Lakshmisagara Grama Panchayath, Chitradurga Tq, Chitradurga Dist., Karnataka, Pin: 577541. East-Land Of Rudrappa, West-Road, South-Vacant Place of Basappa, North-Vacant Place of Nagarajappa	13-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.291590/-
14	Gangadhara D, Rekha G, Hanumakka K, /NHL00510022537/ Shimoga	All That The Piece Or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Site/Property No. 277/2P, E-Property No. 152400403300120639, Measuring Total 72.46 Sq. Meter, Including 54.35 Sq. Meter House Situated At Thogarsi Village, Thogarsi Village Panchayath, Shikaripura Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka, Pin: 577433. East-Property of Shushilamma, West-Property of Durugappa, South-Road, North-Survey Number	13-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.283771/-
15	D Ranganatha, Bhagyamma H, Pavan R B, /NHL01300047754/ Chitradurga	All That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing Village Panchayath No. 579, E- Swathu No.151000101300100392 Measuring 10 X 12 Meter = 120.00 Sq. Mtrs, Wherein House Constructed Measuring 120.00 Sq. Mtrs, Situated At Dodderi Village, Challakere Taluk And Chitradurga District Within The Limits Of Village Panchayath Dodderi, Challakere Block, Karnataka, Pin: 577522. East-Road, West-House of Gurushanthamma, South-Road, North-House of Geethamma	14-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.823360/-
16	Nagarjuna B E, B S Erappa, Mounika, /NLAP0093055553/ Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Building Bearing Grama Panchayath Khatha No.78 And E-Khatha No.152500602100600153 Measuring East To West : 5.7912 Mtrs And North To South : 10.0584 Mtrs In Total Measuring 73.579208 Sq, Mtrs Is Situated At Bellibatlu Village, Rangasamudra Grama Panchayath, Nidagal Hobli, Pavagada Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka, Pin: 561202. East-House Belongs To Basavaraju, West-House Belongs To Hanumakka, South-14 Feet Road., North-Road	14-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.729240/-
17	Chandrappa P, Rathnamma, Ganesha C, /NHL01300052365/ Chitradurga	All That Piece And Parcel of Village Panchayath Vanivilasapura Property No. 804/1, E Swathu No.151000301700620063 Measuring E-W: 12.19 Mtr, X N-S 9.14 Mtr= :111.480000 Sq Mtr, Wherein House Constructed Measuring :111.480000 Sq Mtr, Situated At Thalavarahatti Village, Vanivilasapura Panchayth, Chitradurga Tq And Dist., Karnataka, Pin: 577598. East-Panchaythi Road, West-House of Thimmakka, South-House Of Hanumakka, North-House of Arjun Puttappa	14-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.662443/-
18	Mohammed Musthafa, Suffiya, /MLAP0130049216/ Chitradurga	Property Khatha Asst No.13014/20899/52, E-Property No.30-1-502-206, Measuring E-W:8.412497 Mtr, N-S:5.669291 Mtr, Total:47.692890 Sq Mtr, Build Up Area: 47.38053 Situated At Ward No.30, C.k.pura Badavane Chitrdaurga Town, Chitradurga Tq And Dist, Karnataka, Pin: 577501. East-C.C. Road, West-House of Papanna, South-Galli Road, North-House of Manjanna	14-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.552646/-
19	Kenchamma T, Sannakariyappa, /MLAP0130042115/ Chitradurga	Property Khatha No.137, E-Property No.151000502000700202, Measuring E-W:9.14 Mtr, N-S:12.19 Mtr, Total: 111.48 Sq Mtr, Build Up Area:111.48, Situated At Shiranakatte Village, Lakihalli Grama Panchayath, Hosadurga Tq, Chitradurga Dist., Karnataka, Pin: 577527. East-Bharathamma, West-Vacant Place, South-Vacant Place, North-Road	14-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.513340/-
20	B Babu, Saminabanu, Shabber, /MLAP0130056843/ Chitradurga	All That Piece And Parcel of Property Khatha No.90/70, E-Property No.151000402500700091, Measuring E-W:8.2296 Mtr, N-S:15.24 Mtr, Total: 126.626843 Sq Mtr, Build-Up Area: 126.626843 Sq Mtr, Situated At Venkateshapura Village, Thalya Grama Panchayatahi, Holalkere Tq, Chitradurga Dist., Karnataka,Pin:577527. East-House of Mailarappa, West-Place of Pakruddin, South-Road, North-Vacant Place And House o f Bashasab	14-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.451231/-
21	Mallamma, Nagesha, /MLAP0130045053/ Chitradurga	Property Khatha Asst No.182, E-Property No.33-647-3840, Measuring E-W:4.267209 Mtr, N S:10.363221 Mtr, Total:44.22203 Sq Mtr, Build Up Area:32.51605 Sq Mtr Situated At Ward No.1, 3840, Myrada Kaloni, Challakere Town, Challakere Tq, Chitradurga Dist., Karnataka, Pin: 577522. East-Durgamma, West-Akanthappa, South-Road, North-Vacant Place	14-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.407629/-
22	Bharathi R B, Yathish, /MHL00910044953/ Hassan	All That Piece And Parcel of The Site And House Property Bearing Property Id No. 151600203102200060, Gram Panchayath Khatha No. 62, And Property Situated At Kodihalli Village, Thalaluru Gram Panchayath, Arasikere Taluk, Hassan District, Measuring East To West: 8.5344 Meters And North To South: 12.192 Meters And Totally Measuring 104.05 Square Meters And Constructed Plinth Area 85.84 Square Meters, Karnataka, Pin: 573103. East-Sri. Krishna Nayaka, West-Road, South-Government Land, North-House Property of Sri. Lakkamma	14-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.382548/-
23	Mahesh Naik, Shanthi Bai, Gopalanayaka, /NHL00480045543/ Davangare	All That Piece And Parcel of Village Panchayath Property No. 95, E-Swathu No. 151200601200300508, Measuring 9.144 X 7.62 Meter = 69.67 Sq. Mtrs. Situated At Gurusiddapura Village, Jagalur Taluk, Within The Limits of Village Panchayath Gurusiddapura, Jagalur Block, Davangere District, Karnataka, Pin: 577513. East-Vacant Site of Neelabai, West-Vacant Site of Dhanjanaika, South-House of Lakshmibai., North-Road	14-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.363310/-
24	Kencharayappa T, Rangamma, Gireesh K S, /MLAP0130049899/ Chitradurga	Property E-Swathu No.927, E-Property No.151000301700420023, Measuring E-W:12.19 Mtr, N-S:9.14 Mtr, Total:111.4800 Sq Mtr, Build Up Area:111.4800 Sq Mtr, Situated At Kambhadahalli Village, Vanivilasapura Grama Panchayath, Hiriyur Tq, Chitradurga Dist., Karnataka, Pin: 577598. East-Vacant Place, West-CC Road, South-VV Pura Road, North-Vacant Place of Nagamma	14-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.337594/-
25	Subramani D, Shanthamma S, C Latha, /NHL00340010931/ Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing Koppa Gramapanchayathi Property No. 26/1 And As Per Form No. 9 And 11 A Unique No. 152200622097020627 Situated At Girigoru Village, Periyapatna Taluk, Mysuru District, Karnataka, Pin: 571104 Measuring East To West : 12.192 Meters And North To South : 13.71 Meters. East-Property of Shivnna, West-Property of Sannaningamma, South-Site of Ambedkar, North-House of Dandaiah	06-04-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.474127/-
26	Praveen, Shilpa S R, Ratnavva Kalakoti, /NLAP0048049672/ Davangare	All That Piece And Parcel of Property Assessment No. 6472/636, Property No. 21- 513-910, Measuring 9.144018 X 6.096012 Meter = 55.74205 Sq. Mtrs, Wherein House Constructed Measuring 26.47 Sq. Mtrs, Situated At Byadagi Town, Within The Limits of Town Municipal Panchayath Byadagi, Haveri District, Karnataka, Pin: 581106. East-Road-513, West-Plot No.1172, South-Plot No.1173., North-Plot No. 1169	14-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.541598/-
27	Venkatesh C, S Geetha, Chandrappa, Gangamma, /MLAP0130050725/ Chitradurga	Property E-Swathu No.813, E-Property No.151000301700500054, Measuring E- W:12.19 Mtr, N-S:9.14 Mtr,Total:111.480000 Sq Mtr, Build-Up Area:111.480000 Situated At Kuntappanahatti Village, Vanivilasapura Grama Panchayath, Hiriyur Tq Chitradurga Dist., Karnataka, Pin: 577598. East-CC Road, West-CC Road, South-House of Mudlappa, North-House of Thimmaiah	14-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.433605/-
28	Srinivasprasad, Mahadevamma, Siddappaji, /MLAP0034052314/ Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing Beligerehundi Gramada Janjar No. 112, P.I.D No.152200703200300554, Situated At Kiragasuru Grama, Kiragasuru Gramapanchayat, T. Narasipura Block, Mysore (D), Admeasuring 133.153282 Sq Mts., Karnataka, Pin: 571124. East-Galli & House of Manjunath, West-House of Rangaiah., South-Road, North-Site of Javaraiah	14-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.328988/-
29	Raju Rachannavar, Priyanka Rachannavar, Kalmeshwar Rachannavar, Shobha Rachannavar, /NLAP0098048332/ Belgaum	All That Piece And Parcel of G P No. 362/2, Swattin No. 150400406200400468 Total Measuring: 71.38 Sq Mtrs, Situated At Hattarvat, Within The Limits of Gram Panchayat Hattarvat And Within The Jurisdiction of Sro Chikkodi. Tal: Hattarvat & Dist: Belagavi, Karnataka, Pin: 591226. East- Property of Shamrao Kamble, West- Property of Gangavva Ravindra Rachannavar, South-Own Property, North-Gram Panchayat Road	15-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.540505/-
30	Rekha B, Ningaraju B, Govinda Shetty B, /NHL00340003824/ Mysore	AllThatPieceAndParcelofPropertyBearingVenkataiahnachatraGramapanchayathiPropertyNo.231/1AndAsPerFormNo.9And11AUnique No.150800103300120233SituatedAtVenkataiahnachatraVillage,Chamarajanagara Taluk,WithinTheJurisdictionofVenkataiahnachatra Gramapanchayathi, Karnataka, Pin: 571127 Measuring East To West : 7.315 Meters And North To South : 12.192 Meters. East-Galli And House of Nanjundashetty, West-Site of Sellappa, South-Site of Chikkannashetty, North-Road	15-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.470692/-
31	Ashwini K, Sathisha S K, Rathnamma M, /MLAP0034035859/ Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing Agasanapura Gramapanchayathi Property No. 4/4 And As Per Form No. 9 And 11 A Unique No. 152100301300200004 Situated At Sahalli Village, Malavalli Taluk, Mandya District, Within The Jurisdiction of Agasanapura Gramapanchayathi, Karnataka, Pin: 571430 Totally Measuring 142.14 Square Meters And Building Measuring 90.30 Square Meters. East-House of Ramalingegowda, West-Property of Indra Wife of Naga, South-Road, North-Road	15-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.400753/-
32	Rekha M, Maheshwarappa O, Gangadhara M, /MHL00510017154/ Shimoga	All That The Piece Or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing A Site/Khatha/Property No. A129, E-Property No. 151200504100100468, Measuring Total 111.48 Sq. Meter, Including 111.48 Sq. Meter Building, Situated At Dodderi Village, Chiluru Village Panchayath, Nyamathi Taluk, Davangere District, Karnataka, Pin: 577230. East-Vacant Site, West-Site of Puttaiah S/O Channabasaiah, South-Vacant Site, North-Panchayath Road	15-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.344140/-
33	J K Thippeshappa, Prema, Kiralappa, Rudrappa J K, Mamatha, Shavanthramma, /MLAP0051051100/ Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Site/ Property No. 298, E-Property No. 150900701900100314, Measuring Total 111.483648 Sq. Meter, Including 65.032128 Sq. Meter, Building Situated At Javooru Village, Javooru Village Panchayath, Ajjampura Taluk, Chikkamagaluru District, Karnataka, Pin: 577145. East- Property of Lakshmappa, West-Property of Durgappa, South-V. P., North-V. P.	16-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.319431/-
34	Davalasab Masuti, Mahmadrafik Masuti, Jamela Masuti, Hajarat Ali Nadaf, /NHL00260039521/ Hubli	Residential Property Bearing Town Panchayat No.18-507-55, Ward No.11, Old No. And Assessment No.3/138A, Total Measuring 39.019430 Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 39.01926 Sq Mtr Situated At Kelageri Oni, Shirahatti, Tq: Shirahatti, Dist: Gadag, Karnataka, Pin: 582120. East-Property of Moulali Annigeri, West-Govt. Road, South-Property of Abdulgani Annigeri, North-Property of Kalmath	17-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.504430/-
35	Jilan Pasha S, Dil Shad A, Sapurabi B, Sab Siddik G, /NHL00930014613/ Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing Katha No.258/26 And E-Katha No.152500501601000277, Measuring East To West: 9.144 Meters And North To South: 12.192 Meters, Situated At Neralekere Village, Midigeshi Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk, Tumkur District, Under The Limit of Neralekere Gramapanchayathi Karnataka, Pin: 572132. East-Drainage And Road, West-Remaining Property, South-Property of Sab Jaan Sab., North-Property Padma W/O Danujaiah	17-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.486442/-
36	Adiveppa Fakkirappa Madar, Fakkirappa Adiveppa Madar, Renavva Fakkirappa Madar, Sanjuray Vittappa Karande, /NHL00260033203/ Hubli	Residential Property Bearing Vpc No.874, Plot No.122, Property No.151300502100320258, Measuring East To West: 9Mtr And North To South: 15Mtr. Total Measuring 135.00Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 65.00Sq Mtr Situated At Amargol Village Within Belavatagi Gram Panchayat, Tq: Navalagund & Dist: Dharwad, Karnataka, Pin: 582208. East-Property of Shekappa D Madar Plot No.123, West-Property of Yamanappa F Madar Plot No.121, South-Road, North-Property of Davalsab A Mullanavar Plot No.108	17-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.421079/-
37	Narasimha Murthy G, Gangadharaiah K, Narasamma H, /NHL00930023364/ Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of The House Bearing Residential Building Bearing Grama Panchayath Khatha No.344/844 And E-Khatha No.152500500900600577 Measuring East To West : 9.144 Mtrs And North To South : 12.192 Mtrs Is Situated At Doddadalavatta Village, I.d. Halli Hobli, Madugiri Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka, Pin: 572127. East-Vacant Site Belongs To Narasappa, West-C.C. Road, South-Government Road., North-House Belongs To Lakshmipathi	17-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.333248/-
38	Vedhamma S, Sanna Manjappa, Kumar M, Sakamma K, /MHL00510009834/ Shimoga	All That Part And Parcel of The Property Bearing Rdpr Khata No.151200502600100118, As Per Gram Panchayat Record Property No.93 Measuring In Total 111.48 Sq Meter House Property Situated At Devarahonnali, Masadi Gram Panchayat. Honnali Taluk And Davanagere District, Karnataka, Pin: 577217. East-Open Space, West-Property Belongs To Premamma, South-Gram Panchayat Road, North-Conservancy Road	22-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.168542/-
39	Savitra Raju Olekar, Rajappa Shivappa Aladakatte Urf Olekar, /MHL00510019256/ Shimoga	All That Part And Parcel of The Property Bearing Rdpr Khata No.151700402800200666, As Per Gram Panchayat Record Property No.197/A Measuring In Total 234.08 Sq Meter Including Measuring 61.60 Sq Meter House Property Situated At Varaha, Chennelli Gram Panchayat. Hirekeruru Taluk And Haveri District, Karnataka, Pin: 581111. East-Ajjayya Olekar, West- Dharmappa Soppina, South-Land Belongs To Maltesha Konna, North-Panchayat Road	23-03-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.405834/-
40	Subramani D, Shanthamma S, C Latha, /NLAP0034028557/ Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing Property No. 26/1, P.I.D No. 152200622097020627 Situated At Girigoru Village, Koppa Gramapanchayathi, Periyapatna Block, Mysuru District, Karnataka, Pin: 571104 Measuring East To West : 12.192 Meters And North To South : 13.71 Meters. East-Property of Shivnna, West-Property of Sannaningamma , South- Site of Ambedkar Bhavana, North-House of Dandaiah	06-04-2026	08-04-2026 & Rs.304788/-

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers, as mentioned herein above, calling upon them to make payment of the total outstanding amount as shown herein above, against the respective Borrower / Co-Borrower, within 60 days of publication of this notice. Failure to make payment of the total outstanding amount together with further interest by the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower, MAHOFIN shall be constrained to take u/s 13(4) for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above, steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the rules made hereunder. You are put to notice that the said mortgage can be redeemed upon payment of the entire amount due together with costs, charges and expenses incurred by MAHOFIN at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or private treaty for transfer by way of sale, as detailed in Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act.
Take note that in terms of S-13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby restrained from transferring and/or dealing with the Secured Properties in any manner by way of sale, lease or in any other manner.

Date: 28th April 2026 | Place: KARNATAKA **Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd**

Jharkhand HC pulls up govt over coal mine safety

RANCHI

The Jharkhand High Court on Monday took a strict stance on the safety, health, and rights of coal mine workers. Taking suo motu cognisance of the issue, a division bench of Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad and Justice Sanjay Prasad directed the state's Chief Inspector of Factories to appear in person at the next date of hearing.

The Supreme Court, in recent years, has issued stringent directions concerning the safety of mine workers and their right to life. The apex court had clearly stated that the life and health of those working in mines are of paramount importance and that negligence at any level would not be tolerated.

SC ORDERS PROBE INTO DENIAL OF EMERGENCY CARE IN DELHI ASSAULT CASE

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court of India on Monday took suo motu cognisance of a brutal assault on a woman advocate in Delhi and directed an inquiry into allegations that multiple hospitals refused her emergency treatment despite her critical condition.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, along with Justice Joymalya Bagchi, initiated proceedings after receiving a letter from advocate Sneha Kalita. The letter highlighted the shocking incident involving the victim, a practising lawyer at Karkardooma Courts, who was allegedly stabbed multiple times by her husband.

During the hearing, the court was informed that the victim sustained severe injuries to vital organs after being attacked with a sharp-edged weapon. Despite repeated calls to the Police Control Room and urgent attempts to secure medical care, she was allegedly denied admission by three hospitals. She was eventually admitted to the AIIMS Trauma Centre in the early hours, where she received critical treatment.

Taking serious note of the situation, the apex court directed the investigating officer to examine the circumstances under which emergency medical assistance was denied and to submit a detailed status report. The Bench emphasized that refusal of treatment in such life-threatening conditions raises grave concerns and must be thoroughly investigated.

Appearing for the Delhi government, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati informed the court that a First Information Report had been registered and the accused husband was arrested during the night of April 25–26. She added that the victim's condition has since stabilised after initial treatment at AIIMS, and she has been shifted to a private hospital for further care.

The court also directed the Delhi Police Commissioner to transfer the investigation to a senior officer, preferably a woman officer of the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Police or Deputy Commissioner of Police, to ensure a fair and sensitive probe into the matter.

In addition, the court ordered authorities to trace the whereabouts of the victim's two minor daughters, who were reportedly taken away by her in-laws following the attack. The case has raised serious questions about emergency healthcare access and institutional accountability, with the Supreme Court's intervention underscoring the urgency of ensuring that critical patients are not denied life-saving treatment under any circumstances.

TMP members take oath in Tripura tribal council

AGARTALA

Newly elected members of the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council from the Tipra Motha Party were sworn in on Monday, while the BJP chose to boycott the ceremony, signaling political tensions within the state's tribal governance body.

The oath-taking ceremony was held at the council headquarters in Khumulwng, located about 20 kilometres from Agartala. Law Secretary Sankari Das administered the oath or affirmation to the newly elected members, formally marking the beginning of the council's new term.

Despite the completion of the swearing-in process, the formation of the council's leadership has been postponed. According to a senior Tipra Motha Party leader, the election of key posts such as the Chairman and the Chief Executive Member (CEM) will be deferred until the results of the West Bengal Assembly elections are announced. The reason behind linking the council's internal process to the election outcome was not disclosed.

Tipra Motha Party supremo Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma stated after the ceremony that the new council would focus on critical sectors including education, healthcare, water supply, infrastructure development, and entrepreneurship.

The party, which represents tribal interests, is currently a junior ally in the BJP-led coalition government in Tripura.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,
1st Floor, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052

No: DGM-1/BSWML/PR/164/2026-27 Date: 27.04.2026

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTIFICATION
(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

This is to inform the general public and all concerned that below mentioned tender notifications issued by Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML on 10.03.2026 has been cancelled due to technical reasons.
1. Tender Notification No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/21/2025-26
2. Tender Notification No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/25/2025-26

DIPR/CP/389/NR/2026-27 Sd/- Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML

CH
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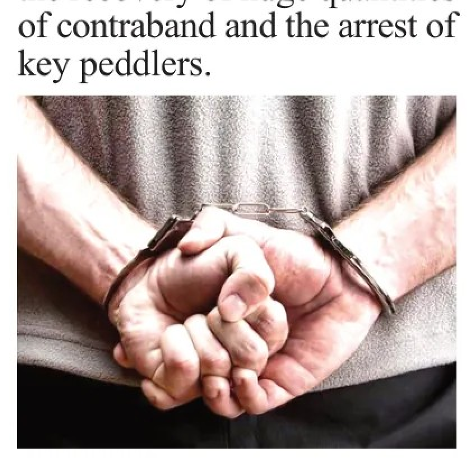
Police in J&K's Anantnag bust massive drug racket, arrest 4

SRINAGAR

Police in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district said on Monday that they busted a major drug racket, recovered 166 kg contraband and arrested four people. A police statement said that in one of the biggest anti-drug operations in the district, Anantnag Police seized over 166 kilograms of narcotics, including ganja and charas, and arrested four accused in a series of coordinated actions across the district. Officials said that acting on specific inputs and during routine checking, multiple police teams carried out operations at different locations, leading to the recovery of huge quantities of contraband and the arrest of key peddlers.



Oil prices rise amid stalled US-Iran peace talks

Mediators indicate that negotiations are still active, even as disagreements over key issues

WASHINGTON

Efforts to ease tensions between the United States and Iran continue behind the scenes despite a breakdown in direct diplomatic engagement. Mediators indicate that negotiations are still active, even as disagreements over key issues, particularly Iran's nuclear ambitions, keep both sides at a distance. Sources from Pakistan, which has been acting as a mediator, confirmed that diplomatic channels remain open between Washington and Tehran. However, hopes for a breakthrough suffered a setback after former US President Donald Trump abruptly cancelled a planned visit by his envoys to Islamabad. The visit was expected to facilitate face-to-face discussions with Iranian representatives, marking a critical step toward de-escalation.Iranian officials have reportedly proposed a phased approach to negotiations. According to sources in Tehran, the initial priority would be to halt ongoing hostilities and address disruptions to shipping in the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz. Broader discussions, including those concerning Iran's nuclear program, would be deferred to a later stage. This proposal, however, appears unlikely to satisfy US demands, which insist that nuclear issues must be addressed upfront as a precondition for any agreement.Diplomatic activity over the weekend highlighted both urgency and complexity. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi made multiple visits to Islamabad while also traveling to Oman, another key player in regional mediation efforts. On Monday, he arrived in Russia to

meet President Vladimir Putin, a longstanding ally of Tehran, in a move seen as strengthening Iran's diplomatic backing.Meanwhile, economic repercussions are becoming evident. Global oil markets reacted swiftly to the continued uncertainty, with Brent crude prices rising approximately 2.5 percent to around $108 per barrel. The increase reflects concerns over potential disruptions in one of the world's most critical energy corridors.Speaking in a televised interview, Trump reiterated Washington's stance, emphasizing that Iran must abandon any pursuit of nuclear weapons before meaningful talks can proceed. He suggested that communication channels remain open, but made it clear that the terms for engagement are non-negotiable.As both sides remain entrenched in their positions, the path to a diplomatic resolution appears increasingly uncertain, leaving global markets and regional stability hanging in the balance.

Shipping traffic through Hormuz remains muted

London : Shipping activity through the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz remains significantly reduced as tensions between the United States and Iran continue without resolution.

According to shipping data released on Monday, at least seven vessels, primarily dry bulk carriers, crossed the Strait of Hormuz in the past 24 hours. This figure is far below normal levels and highlights the continuing disruption caused by the standoff between Washington and Tehran. Before the conflict escalated in late February, the waterway typically saw an average of around 140 vessels passing through daily.

The recent ships included vessels departing from Iraqi ports, along with one dry bulk carrier originating from an Iranian port.

QUICK READ

Uzbek former first daughter goes on trial in Switzerland

Zurich

The trial of Gulnara Karimova, daughter of a former Uzbek president, and Swiss private bank Lombard Odier on money laundering charges began on Monday in Switzerland's Federal Criminal Court, in a case dating back two decades. Karimova is accused of taking bribes and running a criminal organisation known as The Office that allegedly channelled hundreds of millions of dollars to accounts in Switzerland between 2005 and 2013. Geneva-based Lombard Odier and an ex-employee of the bank are suspected of having played a decisive role in enabling the concealment of proceeds of Karimova's alleged criminal activity. Karimova, a daughter of the late Islam Karimov, who was president for 25 years, is in prison in Uzbekistan. She and Lombard Odier have denied anywrongdoing.

EU extends sanctions against Myanmar by a year

Brussels

The European Union on Monday extended its sanctions against Myanmar until at least May 2027, in an effort to maintain pressure on the country's military rulers more than five years after their coup toppled an elected government. The measures include asset freezes, travel bans and an arms embargo for 105 individuals and 22 entities. They were first imposed after the February 2021 military coup and the subsequent crackdown on dissent. The EU reiterates its strongest condemnation of the actions taken by the Myanmar military since the 2021 coup, the EU Council said, citing what it described as continuing grave human rights violations and widespread restrictions on fundamental freedoms.

King Charles jets to US for trip overshadowed by shooting

London

Britain's King Charles and Queen Camilla arrive in the United States later on Monday for a four-day trip, a tour which has taken on even greater prominence after the White House Correspondents' dinner shooting and amid acrimony between the close allies. The state visit, by far the most high-profile and consequential of Charles's reign, marks the 250th anniversary of the U.S. declaration of independence from British rule, and is the first to the country by a British monarch for two decades.

It begins with a private meeting with self-proclaimed.

Russian drone attack on Odesa wounds 14: Officials

ODESA

An overnight Russian drone attack on Ukraine's southern city of Odesa wounded more than a dozen people, including two children, and damaged residential buildings, Ukrainian officials said on Monday.

The strikes caused the worst damage in the historic central Prymorskyi district, where residential buildings, a hotel and facilities were damaged, said Serhiy Lysak, the head of the local military administration, on Telegram. Most of the injured people were located there, Lysak said. The regional governor, Oleh Kiper, said the number of injured rose to 14. Odesa, a major Black Sea port and a focal point for Ukrainian exports, has been a repeated target of Russian attacks during more than four years of Russia's war.It was an extremely difficult night, Lysak said, adding that high-rise residential buildings, private homes and vehicles came under attack in two other districts.He posted photographs of a damaged building with shattered windows.

We made it through. Old buildings are the strongest, Volodymyr Taban, 68, a resident of the damaged building, told Reuters as he cleared debris.Ukraine's seaports authority said that port infrastructure of the Greater Odesa hub came under attack, and a Ramco Nauru-flagged vessel sustained minor damage as it moved through a Ukrainian maritime corridor.

As New Mexico probes Epstein, local survivors come forward

SANTA FE

Authorities in New Mexico have intensified efforts to uncover the extent of alleged abuse linked to the late financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein at his remote ranch property.

Officials are now working to identify how many local women and girls may have been victims over the years.

The investigation centers on Epstein's sprawling Zorro Ranch, where multiple individuals have claimed they were transported and subjected to abuse by Epstein and his associates. While earlier accounts largely involved victims brought in from outside the state, authorities have now confirmed contact with several New Mexico residents who allege they were also abused

at the property.

Marianna Anaya, a state lawmaker involved in the inquiry, stated that the Truth Commission established to investigate Epstein's activities has been approached by local individuals claiming to be victims. This marks the first time officials have publicly acknowledged outreach from residents within the state regarding alleged abuse at the ranch.

Previously, only one New Mexico-based victim had been publicly identified — a former massage therapist from Santa Fe. However, the latest developments suggest that the number of local victims could be significantly higher than initially believed. Authorities are now working to verify these claims and determine the scope of alleged misconduct during the decades Epstein owned the property.

The Truth Commission is collaborating with the New Mexico Department of Justice to support survivors and assess whether viable criminal cases can be pursued against individuals linked to Epstein. Although Epstein himself died in 2019 while awaiting trial, investigators continue to examine the role of alleged co-conspirators who may still face legal consequences.

The inquiry reflects a broader effort to provide justice to survivors and ensure accountability for those involved. Officials have emphasized that outreach from victims is a critical step in building cases and understanding the full extent of the abuse network that may have operated at the secluded ranch for more than two decades.

Philippines-US stage counter-landing drills with allies

PALAWAN

As simulated enemy boats and unmanned craft closed in on the shores of Palawan-island facing the South China Sea, Philippine and U.S. forces conducted counter-landing drills on Monday, repelling a mock assault by using live fire against designated targets and intercepting threats.The display of advanced weapons capabilities and operational readiness was part of the annual Balikatan or shoulder to shoulder exercises, bringing together forces from the Philippines, the United States, Australia and New Zealand to rehearse coastal defence manoeuvres and test their ability to work together to protect territorial waters.Philippine military chief Romeo Brawner underscored the location's strategic value, noting that Palawan faces the South China Sea and lies opposite the Kalayaan Island Group.

US dinner shooting suspect to appear in court

WASHINGTON

A man accused of attempting a violent attack at a high-profile Washington dinner attended by former US President Donald Trump is set to appear in federal court.

Cole Tomas Allen, a 31-year-old resident of Torrance, California, is scheduled to make his first appearance before a federal judge in Washington.

The court proceeding follows his arrest after an alleged attempt to attack attendees at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner, an annual gathering that brings together journalists, politicians, and prominent public figures.

According to officials, Allen is expected to face charges including assault on a federal officer and the use of a firearm during a violent crime. Jeanine Pirro, the top federal prosecutor in Washington, indicated that formal charges would be filed shortly. Meanwhile, Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche stated that additional charges, potentially including attempted assassination, remain under consideration as investigators continue to examine the case.

Authorities revealed that Allen allegedly carried out the attack at the Washington Hilton, where the event was being held. He is said to have traveled from California by train and booked a room at the hotel prior to the incident. Investigators also reported that he left behind a manifesto outlining intentions to target senior officials from the Trump administration, with indications that Trump himself may have been among the intended targets.

The incident unfolded when Allen allegedly fired a shotgun at a Secret Service agent stationed at a security checkpoint inside the hotel. The

Allen is expected to face charges including assault on a federal officer and the use of a firearm during a violent crime

agent was struck, but a protective tactical vest prevented serious injury. Law enforcement officers quickly subdued the suspect within the security perimeter, averting what officials described as a potentially catastrophic attack.

The gunfire caused immediate chaos inside the ballroom, with attendees scrambling for cover as security personnel rushed to evacuate key figures. Trump, who was scheduled to address the gathering later in the evening, was swiftly escorted away from the stage.Officials confirmed that Allen was also armed with a handgun and multiple knives at the time of his arrest. He was later taken to a hospital for evaluation.

Russia summons German envoy over lawmaker's meeting with Chechen exile

MOSCOW

Russia's foreign ministry said on Monday it had summoned the German ambassador over a meeting in Kyiv between a German lawmaker and a Chechen separatist who Moscow says leads a terrorist organisation.

Russia said it had lodged a complaint with German Ambassador Alexander Lambsdorff over what it said were talks between Bundestag deputy Roderich Kiesewetter and Akhmed Zakayev, whom Moscow says leads the outlawed Chechen Republic of Ichkeria.

The Chechen Republic of Ichkeria won de facto independence from Moscow after the first Chechen War in the mid 1990s, but its leadership later went into exile.

Ichkeria is the historical name for Russia's southern region of Chechnya, which was devastated by two bloody wars between Russian troops and Chechen separatists following the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991.

Russia designates Ichkeria as a terrorist organisation and treats any related structures or representatives as outlawed.

A strong protest has been expressed with the ambassador regarding the recent meeting in Kyiv, the foreign ministry said, adding that Moscow viewed the contacts as interference in Russia's internal affairs and warned Berlin of negative consequences for actions it described as hostile.

A spokesperson for the Foreign Office in Berlin called the allegations completely unfounded and baseless.

HISTORIC ENCOUNTER

Archbishop of Canterbury meets Pope Leo XIV at Vatican

VATICAN CITY

Pope Leo and new Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally met for the first time on Monday, in a symbolic encounter at the Vatican in which the leaders of the long-separated Catholic Church and Church of England exchanged gifts and prayed together.

Mullally, the first woman to serve as spiritual leader of the world's 85 million Anglicans, was welcomed by Leo, the first U.S. leader of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics, into his formal office at the Vatican's ornate apostolic palace.

The two, who lead Christian denominations that split from each other in acrimony in 1534, met privately before going together to a 17th century chapel where they recited prayers in unison.

In formal remarks to Leo, Mullally thanked the pope for his new, forceful speaking style, which the pontiff used on a four-nation Africa tour to sharply denounce war and despotism and which attracted the ire of U.S. President Donald Trump.

The world needed this message at this time – thank you, the archbishop said. It reminded us that despite our sufferings, people long for life in all its fullness, and countless people are working each day for this vision of the common good.

Leo told Mullally that progress had been made in drawing the Catholic Church and Church of England together but lamented that new problems have arisen in recent decades, without specifying those problems.

We must not allow these continuing challenges to prevent us from using every possible opportunity to proclaim Christ to the world together, said the pope.

Mullally, visiting Rome this week, was installed as the new Archbishop of Canterbury in March, in a historic shift that was met with mixed reactions from the global Anglican Communion, particularly among more conservative provinces in Africa and Asia.

Ahead of the meeting, Mullally told ITV News that she felt very humbled, very privileged to meet Leo. There is a long relationship and fellowship between the Anglican Church and the Roman Catholic Church, we will continue to build on that relationship, she said.

The Church of England broke away from the Catholic Church in 1534, sparked by Pope Clement VII's decision to refuse King Henry VIII's request for an annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon.

RPL EXPANDS, INTRODUCES WOMEN'S TEAMS IN HISTORIC STEP

Rugby Premier League adds women's franchises marking major expansion milestone in India sport

HYDERABAD

The Rugby Premier League has announced a landmark expansion with the introduction of women's franchises in its second season, marking a significant step forward for rugby development in India and strengthening opportunities for female athletes at the professional level.

Building on the success of the inaugural 2025 edition, the league will now feature women's teams alongside the men's competition, expanding its reach and ambition. Four existing men's franchises—Chennai Bulls, Delhi Redz, Mumbai Dreamers, and Kolkata Banga Tigers—will field women's sides in the upcoming season, signalling a structured push toward gender inclusion in the sport.

The inclusion is being viewed as a transformative moment for Indian rugby, aimed at building a sustainable ecosystem that supports both men's and women's participation at a high-performance level. Officials have emphasised that the move is designed not only to broaden the player base but also to elevate the competitive standard of the league.

The league will be held from June 16 to 28 at Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad, continuing its partnership with HSBC as title sponsor. The first season, staged in Mumbai, featured six men's franchises and played a key role in increasing visibility for rugby in the country.

With the expansion, the league is expected to attract greater attention from fans, broadcasters, and young athletes, especially women who now have a clearer professional pathway within the sport. The introduction of women's teams is also expected to inspire grassroots participation and strengthen the overall rugby structure in India.

Rahul Bose, president of Rugby India, welcomed the development, calling it a long-awaited and visionary step that aligns with the federation's long-term goals. He highlighted the growing pool of talented women players and expressed optimism about the impact the league will have on their development.

Sujoy Ganguly, Chief Marketing Officer at GMR Sports, described the expansion as a natural progression of the league's evolution, stressing its commitment to nurturing talent across both genders while enhancing the entertainment and competitive value of the tournament.

The player draft and auction for both men's and women's teams, including new franchises Hyderabad Heroes and Bengaluru Bravehearts, is scheduled to take place in Hyderabad on April 30, setting the stage for an expanded and more inclusive second season.

Sinner cruises in Madrid as Gauff battles illness to stay alive

Jannik Sinner continues winning run while Coco Gauff overcomes illness scare

MADRID

World number one Jannik Sinner continued his dominant run at the Madrid Open, advancing to the round of 16 with a comfortable straight-sets win, while American star Coco Gauff showed remarkable resilience to fight through illness and stay alive in the tournament.

Sinner extended his winning streak to 19 matches with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Danish qualifier Elmer Moller in just 77 minutes at the Caja Magica. The Italian, who is chasing a maiden clay Masters 1000 title, controlled the match from the start, breaking serve four times and barely facing trouble on his own delivery. The top seed has now won 24 consecutive Masters 1000 matches, underlining his consistency at the highest level. Despite not yet securing a major clay title at this level, Sinner continues to look increasingly comfortable on the surface as the tournament progresses.

He will next face Britain's Cameron Norrie in the round of 16, with confidence high following another composed performance. Sinner said his focus remained on staying calm and serving effectively in key moments, which he identified as the key to his victory. Elsewhere in the draw, Lorenzo Musetti also advanced with a straight-sets win over Tallon Griekspoor, setting up an intriguing clash with Jiri Lehecka.

However, the biggest talking point of the day came from Gauff's gritty performance. The world number three struggled visibly due to a stomach virus that has been affecting several players in Madrid this week. Despite vomiting during the match and requiring medical attention, Gauff managed to overcome Sorana Cirstea 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 in a physically draining two-hour battle. At one point, she looked in severe discomfort but continued to fight through each game.

Gauff admitted after the match that she was unsure how she completed the contest, but said her determination to avoid withdrawing kept her going. She added that she is hoping to recover quickly as the tournament progresses. The illness outbreak has already impacted several players, including withdrawals and retirements earlier in the week, adding an unexpected challenge to the Madrid draw.

Simons suffers heartbreaking injury setback ending Spurs season and World Cup hopes

Simons ruled out of season and WC after devastating injury blow

LONDON

Xavi Simons has been ruled out of the remainder of the season and this summer's World Cup after suffering a serious knee injury, leaving the Tottenham Hotspur midfielder "heartbroken" following a major setback in both club and international football.

The 23-year-old was stretchered off in visible distress during Tottenham Hotspur's narrow 1-0 Premier League victory over already relegated Wolves. Simons was seen clutching his right knee after a challenge and immediately required medical attention, raising fears of a significant ligament injury.

In an emotional statement posted on social media, Simons confirmed that his season had come to an abrupt end, with early reports suggesting a possible ACL injury that could sideline him for several months.

Describing the moment as one of the most painful of his career, Simons said life had felt "cruel" and admitted he was struggling to come to terms with the situation. He expressed deep disappointment at being unable to continue fighting for his team during a critical stage of the campaign.

Simons also confirmed that the injury had ended his hopes of representing the Netherlands at the upcoming World Cup in North America, calling the timing especially difficult after what he described as a strong personal season. The midfielder has been a key figure for both club and country, earning 34 international caps and establishing himself as one of Europe's most promising young playmakers.

His absence is a major blow for Tottenham Hotspur, who are currently battling to secure Premier League safety. Under new manager Roberto De Zerbi, Spurs sit just two points above the relegation zone with four matches remaining, and Simons was expected to play a central role in their survival push.

For the Netherlands national team, his injury is equally damaging, with Simons widely expected to be part of their squad for the tournament set to begin on June 11.

FIFA plans prize money boost for expanded 2026 WORLD CUP

VANCOUVER

FIFA is set to increase prize money for the 2026 World Cup, with discussions underway to enhance financial rewards for all 48 participating teams in what is expected to be the most lucrative edition of the tournament yet.

The proposal, which is expected to be reviewed at the upcoming FIFA Council meeting ahead of the 76th FIFA Congress in Vancouver, reflects the organisation's strong financial position and rising global revenues. FIFA has indicated that it is in active consultation with national associations to expand the prize pool and overall financial contributions linked to the tournament.

In its earlier announcement in December, FIFA had already revealed a 50 percent increase in prize money compared to the previous edition, with a base allocation of $655 million earmarked primarily for performance-based payments to participating nations. However, officials have now confirmed that further increases are being considered as revenues for the 2023–2026 cycle are projected to exceed $11 billion.

Under the existing structure, the tournament winners are set to receive $50 million, while runners-up would earn $33 million. Teams exiting at the group stage are guaranteed $9 million each, along with an additional $1.5 million allocated to every qualified nation to support preparation costs.

The expanded 48-team format for the 2026 edition, to be co-hosted by the United States, Mexico, and Canada, has significantly boosted commercial opportunities, contributing to FIFA's record financial outlook. According to its latest financial report, 93 percent of projected revenues have already been secured, underlining the scale and success of its global operations.

FIFA stated that the increased prize money is part of a broader effort to strengthen the global football ecosystem. This includes enhanced development funding through its FIFA Forward programme, which aims to support all 211 member associations. The governing body emphasised that the 2026 World Cup will set new benchmarks not only in sporting terms but also in financial distribution, ensuring wider benefits across the football community.

Badminton set for major shake-up with new scoring system from 2027

KUALA LUMPUR

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) has approved a significant change to the sport's scoring system, introducing a new format aimed at making matches more engaging, faster-paced, and appealing to younger audiences.

From January 2027, badminton matches will shift from the current best-of-three games to 21 points format to a revised structure where each game will be played to 15 points. The move marks one of the most notable rule changes in recent years and is part of a broader effort to modernise the sport.

BWF president Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul described the decision as a major milestone, emphasising the need to evolve badminton in line with changing audience expectations. She said the new system is designed to create more intense matches, with high-pressure situations arising earlier in each game.

According to the federation, the 3x15 format is expected to improve match scheduling by ensuring more consistent durations, which could benefit broadcasters, tournament organisers, and players alike. It is also seen as a step toward enhancing player welfare by potentially reducing physical strain over long matches.

Officials believe the shorter format will lead to tighter contests and more dramatic finishes, keeping fans engaged from the opening rally to the final point. The change is also intended to make the sport more accessible and exciting for new audiences, particularly younger viewers.

Leeswadtrakul acknowledged that the decision may face resistance from traditionalists who are accustomed to the existing format. However, she stressed that the core essence of badminton—its skill, tactics, and physical intensity—would remain unchanged.

The move follows ongoing discussions within the global badminton community about how best to balance tradition with innovation. With increasing competition from other fast-paced sports and entertainment formats, governing bodies have been exploring ways to enhance the spectator experience.

The revised scoring system will be implemented across international competitions from 2027, giving players and stakeholders time to adapt. As badminton enters a new phase, the focus will remain on preserving its competitive spirit while ensuring it stays relevant in a rapidly evolving sporting landscape.

Chelsea edge Leeds to reach FA Cup final amid turbulent season

LONDON

Chelsea FC overcame a difficult week to seal a place in the FA Cup final with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Leeds United at Wembley Stadium.

Argentine midfielder Enzo Fernández scored the decisive goal in the 23rd minute, meeting a well-delivered cross from Portuguese winger Pedro Neto with a precise header. The early breakthrough proved enough for Chelsea to secure their spot in next month's final, where they will face Manchester City.

The victory comes in the wake of significant upheaval at the club, with former coach Liam Rosenior dismissed earlier in the week following a string of poor Premier League results. Despite the off-field uncertainty, Chelsea produced a composed and disciplined performance to keep their cup hopes alive.

Chelsea dominated the opening half, controlling possession and creating several chances, but were unable to extend their lead. Leeds, however, grew into the contest and posed a serious threat, especially in the second half.

Goalkeeper Robert Sánchez played a crucial role in preserving the lead, making key saves to deny Brenden Aaronson and Anton Stach. His composure under pressure ensured Chelsea held firm against a determined Leeds side pushing for an equaliser. Interim coach Calum McFarlane, who took charge following Rosenior's departure, guided the team effectively through a tense semi-final. He is now set to lead Chelsea into the FA Cup final scheduled for May 16. For Leeds United, the defeat marked the end of a spirited cup run. Despite their resilience and improved second-half display, they were unable to find a breakthrough against a well-organised Chelsea defence.

Three UP athletes under doping cloud after syringes found at U-20 meet

BENGALURU

Three athletes from Uttar Pradesh, including two minors, have come under suspicion for possible doping violations after syringes were allegedly found in their hotel room during the National Junior Federation Competition in Tumakuru. The incident reportedly unfolded when a strong smell of medicines from a room at a hotel near Mahatma Gandhi Stadium raised concerns among officials. Upon inspection, a plastic bag containing syringes was discovered, prompting immediate action and raising serious questions about potential substance abuse.

The athletes—one a 19-year-old 400m runner and the other two competing in the 5000m and 1500m events—had all participated in the meet but failed to progress beyond the qualifying rounds. Following the discovery, authorities identified the occupants and alerted the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA).

However, by the time anti-doping officials reached the hotel, the athletes and an accompanying adult had reportedly absconded. Sources indicated that the adult, believed to be a former athlete, is suspected of influencing the youngsters, raising further concerns about exploitation and misuse of substances at the junior level.

The case comes at a time when India is under increased scrutiny over doping practices. Recently, World Athletics' Integrity Unit classified India as a country with an "extremely high" risk of doping, intensifying the spotlight on enforcement and preventive measures.

Officials from the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) confirmed that the matter is under investigation. The alleged possession of syringes also violates the federation's strict "No Needle Policy", which prohibits athletes and support staff from carrying or using injectable equipment without proper medical justification.

Musk-Altman face off in court over OpenAI's mission shift

Tech tycoons are poised to face off in a high-stakes trial revolving around alleged betrayal, deceit and unbridled ambition that blurred the bickering billionaires' once-shared vision for AI development

NEW DELHI

A high-stakes legal battle between tech leaders Elon Musk and Sam Altman has begun in a United States federal courtroom, where a jury will examine whether OpenAI's transformation into a commercial powerhouse violated its founding principles.

The trial, opening with jury selection in Oakland, California, centers on allegations that OpenAI deviated from its original nonprofit mission. Founded in 2015 with support from Musk and others, the organization was initially envisioned as a safeguard against unchecked artificial intelligence development, prioritizing benefits for humanity over profit.

Musk, widely regarded as one of the most influential figures in technology, filed the lawsuit in August 2024 against Altman and senior executive Greg Brockman. The complaint accuses OpenAI's leadership of steering the organization toward a profit-driven model without his knowledge, effectively abandoning its founding commitments. The company is now reportedly valued at around $852 billion, reflecting its rapid commercial expansion.

Central to Musk's argument is the claim that OpenAI aligned itself closely with major corporate investors, including Microsoft, thereby shifting away from its original purpose. Musk has also pointed to governance concerns, seeking structural changes within the organization, including the removal of Altman from its board and financial remedies directed toward its nonprofit arm.

OpenAI has strongly rejected these allegations, describing the lawsuit as baseless and suggesting it is driven by Musk's competitive ambitions. The company highlighted Musk's launch of rival AI venture xAI in 2023 as a potential conflict of interest.

The case will be overseen by Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, with a jury serving in an advisory capacity.

Musk, who invested approximately $38 million in OpenAI during its early years, had initially sought damages exceeding $100 billion, though the claim has since been reduced following pre-trial rulings.

The courtroom clash marks a dramatic turn in the relationship between Musk and Altman, who were once collaborators in shaping the future of artificial intelligence. As proceedings unfold, the case is expected to examine broader questions about the ethics, governance, and commercialization of AI in an increasingly competitive global landscape.

QUICK READ

Goldman raises Brent forecast to $90 amid Hormuz crisis

New Delhi

Analysts at Goldman Sachs have raised their forecast for Brent crude the international oil benchmark to $90 per barrel for the fourth quarter, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude pegged at $83 per barrel, as the prolonged closure of the Strait of Hormuz continues to tighten global supply, according to multiple reports. The brokerage said the disruption has triggered 'extreme' inventory drawdowns, with an estimated 14.5 million barrels per day of crude production losses from the Persian Gulf pushing global stockpiles to decline at a record pace of up to 12 million barrels per day in April.

RBI Guv Sanjay Malhotra visits financial literacy camp

Dehradun

Sanjay Malhotra, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, on Monday visited a financial literacy camp organised by the CRISIL Foundation at its Centre for Financial Literacy (CFL) in Sahaspur, Dehradun district. The camp was conducted for members of self-help groups from the gram panchayats of Bhopalpani, Badasi and Soda Sarauli. During his visit, Malhotra emphasised the importance of financial literacy in empowering citizens and strengthening long-term financial stability. He encouraged people to improve financial awareness and take advantage of various pension and insurance schemes offered by the Government of India. Highlighting the need for wider outreach, the RBI Governor urged CFL officials to intensify efforts to educate all sections of society, particularly those living in remote and underserved areas, to ensure greater financial inclusion.

INDIA'S PV SALES RISE 16% TO 4.4 LAKH UNITS IN MARCH

NEW DELHI

India's passenger vehicle market witnessed strong momentum in March 2026, with wholesale volumes rising sharply amid robust domestic demand and supportive policy measures.

According to a report by ICRA, passenger vehicle wholesale volumes in India increased by 16 percent year-on-year to 4.4 lakh units in March 2026. The sector also recorded a 6 percent sequential rise, reflecting consistent production by original equipment manufacturers to meet growing consumer demand.

The report projects that wholesale volumes will expand by 4 to 6 percent in the financial year 2027. This growth is expected to be supported by revised Goods and Services Tax rates and a steady pipeline of new vehicle launches. However, analysts caution that the high base of the previous fiscal year and concerns over a weak monsoon could moderate the pace of expansion.

Retail sales have shown even stronger performance, registering a 21 percent year-on-year increase in March. This surge has been attributed to consumer interest in newly launched models and the continued positive impact of GST rate adjustments. Overall retail volumes rose by 11 percent during the financial year, reaching an all-time high of 4.6 million units.

Data from the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations indicated a significant improvement in inventory levels. Dealer stock declined to around 28 days by March 2026, compared to over 50 days a year earlier, suggesting healthier demand and improved supply-demand balance.

A key trend shaping the market is the dominance of utility vehicles, which accounted for 68 percent of total passenger vehicle volumes in FY26. While this segment continues to lead growth, demand for smaller car categories such as mini and compact vehicles has shown signs of recovery following tax reductions.

Assocham inks pact with India-NZ business council to boost trade

NEW DELHI

Leading business chamber ASSOCHAM on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the India New Zealand Business Council to create a structured action plan for industry-led initiatives under the India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The move aims to help businesses in both countries fully benefit from new opportunities under the pact.

According to a statement, stronger connectivity and people-to-people ties will play a key role in unlocking the partnership's full potential. Greater coordination between trade and industry bodies is expected to simplify procedures and reduce bottlenecks, making bilateral trade smoother. Improved air connectivity and tourism cooperation are also seen as important drivers of economic growth.

The FTA, concluded on December 22, 2025, in just nine months and signed recently, marks a major step in bilateral relations between India and New Zealand. Current trade stands at about $1.3 billion in goods and $634 million in services, with both sides targeting $5 billion in the next five years. A strong Indian diaspora of nearly 300,000 in New Zealand continues to support closer ties.

The agreement offers 100% duty-free access for Indian exports and includes a $20 billion investment commitment over 15 years, boosting trade in textiles, pharmaceuticals, machinery, and raw materials.

Google to open world's first AI campus in Seoul

SEOUL

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung met with Demis Hassabis on Monday to explore cooperation on the responsible use of artificial intelligence and expand global partnerships in the rapidly evolving sector.

During the discussions, President Lee emphasized his government's strong commitment to advancing artificial intelligence, including plans to significantly increase investment in the field.

Hassabis, who leads Google DeepMind, was in South Korea to strengthen collaboration with the government, particularly on initiatives aimed at accelerating AI-driven scientific and technological innovation.

Both leaders agreed that artificial intelligence has the potential to address some of the world's most pressing challenges. These include sluggish economic growth, the escalating climate crisis, and ongoing healthcare concerns. At the same time, they acknowledged the risks associated with misuse of the technology, such as its potential application in warfare or its role in widening social and economic inequalities.

The conversation also focused on the transformative impact of AI on employment. President Lee highlighted the importance of preparing for shifts in the job market as automation and intelligent systems become more widespread. Hassabis echoed these concerns, stressing the need for a new economic framework that redefines work and ensures fair distribution of wealth in an AI-driven future.

A key proposal discussed during the meeting was South Korea's plan to establish a global AI hub. The initiative aims to foster collaboration among governments, international organizations, and private companies to ensure that the benefits of AI are shared broadly. President Lee invited DeepMind to play a central role in this effort, positioning the company as a strategic partner in the country's vision for global AI cooperation.

This marks the first time Google and DeepMind have established an overseas hub dedicated to AI research, development, and coordination

Hassabis underlined the importance of applying AI to fields that enhance human well-being, particularly in science and medicine, while maintaining strict safeguards. He emphasized that ensuring AI systems operate within clearly defined ethical boundaries will be critical to their long-term success. DeepMind is widely recognized for breakthroughs such as AlphaGo, the AI system that defeated legendary Go player Lee Sedol in Seoul in 2016, marking a historic moment in artificial intelligence. Hassabis has also gained global recognition for his contributions to AI-driven protein structure prediction, earning him the 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

AGI by 2030: DeepMind CEO

Google and DeepMind will establish the world's first dedicated "AI Campus" in Seoul within this year. During a meeting with President Lee Jae-myung, DeepMind CEO Demis Hassabis projected that Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) could materialize as early as 2030, and both concurred on the need for AI safety measures and universal basic income. The AI Campus will link to the government's K-Moonshot Project, serving as a collaboration hub for biotech, climate, energy, and other scientific fields, with at least 10 Google researchers dispatched to South Korea. Hassabis also plans to expand partnerships with major Korean firms including Samsung Electronics and Hyundai Motor. The initiative positions South Korea's semiconductor and manufacturing capabilities, alongside its skilled workforce, as a core pillar of global AI strategy.

UBS downgrades IndiGo, cuts target price to ₹4,940

MUMBAI

Shares of InterGlobe Aviation Limited, the parent of IndiGo, opened flat with negative bias on Monday, as global brokerage UBS downgraded the stock and trimmed its price target, citing rising macroeconomic headwinds and sustained pressure on airline profitability.

However, it recovered from early losses and were trading at Rs 4,560.50, down by Rs 37.40 or 0.83 per cent during noon trade. UBS lowered its rating on the stock to neutral from buy and cut its price target to Rs 4,940 from Rs 5,480, flagging growing concerns over the operating environment for airlines.

The downgrade comes at a time when geopolitical tensions, particularly the ongoing US-Iran conflict, have triggered heightened volatility across global markets and driven a sharp surge in energy prices.

The brokerage noted that the aviation sector has been particularly vulnerable, with jet fuel spot prices nearly doubling in recent months amid supply concerns across multiple regions.

While these developments have weighed on global carriers, UBS acknowledged that IndiGo remains relatively better positioned than many of its international peers due to its scale and operational efficiency.

Domestically, the Indian government's intervention to limit the rise in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices has provided some relief.

For April 2026, ATF prices were capped at a 9 per cent increase, significantly lower than the 115 per cent surge seen in international prices in March.

This move has helped cushion the immediate impact on airlines operating in India. In last five days, IndiGo shares were down by Rs 153.50 or 3.26 per cent. The stock has delivered a positive of Rs 461 or 11.25 per cent in last one month.

However, over bigger timeframe, the negative return of shares has been pronounced as it were down by Rs 1,274.50 or 21.84 per cent in last six months. On year-to-date (YTD) basis, it dropped Rs 550 or 10.76 per cent.

OPENING NEW VISTAS

India-NZ ink landmark free trade agreement

NEW DELHI

India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday expressed optimism about unlocking the full potential of the newly concluded India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA), highlighting its role in strengthening bilateral economic ties and creating new opportunities for businesses in both nations.

Speaking at the India-New Zealand Business Forum alongside his counterpart Todd McClay, Goyal emphasized the complementary strengths of the two economies. He noted that India's large consumer market, skilled workforce, digital capabilities, and manufacturing base align well with New Zealand's expertise in agri-technology, clean energy, and financial technology. Business leaders from both countries showcased strong enthusiasm, underlining the scope for deeper cooperation in trade, investment, and innovation.

The FTA, concluded in a record nine months, is being seen as a landmark step in bilateral relations. Current trade between the two countries stands at approximately $1.3 billion in goods and $634 million in services. Both sides have set an ambitious target to increase this figure to $5 billion within the next five years. The Indian diaspora in New Zealand, numbering nearly 300,000 people, continues to play a key role in fostering economic and cultural connections.

One of the most significant aspects of the agreement is the provision for duty-free access for 100 percent of India's exports to New Zealand. This marks a substantial shift from the existing tariff structure, where duties of around 10 percent were applied to several product categories, including textiles, leather goods, ceramics, carpets, automobiles, and auto components. The move is expected to enhance the competitiveness of Indian exports in the New Zealand market.

The agreement also includes a major investment commitment, with New Zealand set to invest $20 billion in India over the next 15 years. This mirrors similar large-scale commitments seen in other recent trade agreements, reinforcing India's strategy of attracting long-term foreign investment while diversifying its economic partnerships across the Indo-Pacific region.

In addition, the FTA introduces provisions aimed at facilitating mobility for professionals and students. For the first time, New Zealand has signed an arrangement covering student mobility and post-study work opportunities. Indian students will be allowed to work up to 20 hours per week during their studies, along with extended post-study work visas, enhancing educational and employment prospects abroad.

LSG captain Rishabh Pant urges team reset after Super Over defeat loss

LUCKNOW

Lucknow Super Giants captain Rishabh Pant called for collective accountability after his side's heartbreaking Super Over defeat to Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL 2026 clash. The match at Ekana Stadium produced the first Super Over of the season, ending in a dramatic finish that left LSG stunned and bottom of the table.In a tense chase of 156, LSG finished at 155, with Mohammed Shami striking a six off the final ball to force the tie. In the Super Over, they batted first but could manage only one run while losing two wickets as Sunil Narine dismissed Nicholas Pooran and Aiden Markram in quick succession.Pant said the team needed a break to refresh and return stronger, stressing that pressure is constant in the IPL but execution and calmness are key. He urged players to take collective responsibility rather than relying on individual performances.The LSG skipper also explained the decision to send Nicholas Pooran in the Super Over despite his poor form, saying the team backed him in a high-pressure situation and trusted his ability to deliver when it mattered most. He admitted there were no excuses for the defeat and acknowledged the lack of positives in the current phase, but expressed confidence that the team will bounce back strongly after the short break.KKR posted 155 for 7, recovering from 93 for 7 thanks to a brilliant unbeaten 83 from Rinku Singh off 51 balls. Mohsin Khan's five for 23kept LSG in control early, but late hitting pushed KKR to a fighting total.Chasing the target, LSG lost early wickets including Mitchell Marsh cheaply, while Rishabh Pant and Aiden Markram attempted to rebuild with cautious batting. However, regular strikes in the middle overs derailed their momentum and left them under pressure.In the Super Over, LSG collapsed for just one run as Narine struck twice to seal the contest. Rinku Singh then finished the chase with a boundary on the first ball, handing KKR a thrilling win and pushing LSG to the bottom of the IPL 2026 standings reflecting intense competition in IPL 2026.

Pant said the team should take a short break to refresh, stressing calm execution, pressure handling, and collective accountability over individuals.

Langer defends sending out-of-form Pooran to face Narine in Super Over

LUCKNOW

'We backed Pooran believing experience outweighed form in Super Over call decision'

Lucknow Super Giants head coach Justin Langer defended the decision to send out-of-form Nicholas Pooran to face Kolkata Knight Riders spinner Sunil Narine in the Super Over of their IPL 2026 clash, saying the management believed he remained the best option despite recent struggles.

Pooran, who has struggled for runs throughout the season with a highest score of just 22, was dismissed off the very first delivery of the Super Over, bowled by Narine. LSG collapsed to 1 for 2, leaving KKR needing just one ball to complete a dramatic victory.

Langer explained the call, noting that Pooran had faced Narine more than most batters in world cricket and the team felt his experience gave him the best chance in a high-pressure moment. He said numbers supported the belief that Pooran traditionally plays spin well, even if form was lacking.

LSG captain Rishabh Pant also supported the decision, saying the team had collectively agreed to back their senior batter in the Super Over, trusting his ability to handle pressure despite a lean run of form.

Langer, however, admitted that the plan failed as Narine struck immediately, repeating a rare historical twist as he had also dismissed Pooran in a Super Over during the 2014 Caribbean Premier League. He praised Narine's execution and the conditions that favoured spin on a slow black-soil wicket.

Mohsin Khan's standout spell of 5 for 23 was highlighted by Langer as a positive, with the coach suggesting the pacer could soon be in contention for higher honours if he maintains fitness. Rinku Singh's late blitz for KKR, including four consecutive sixes, ultimately proved decisive in posting 155.

KKR players, including Rinku Singh and Rovman Powell, celebrated the narrow win as the team climbed the points table, while LSG slipped further after another close finish went against them. The result added pressure on the Lucknow franchise, which has struggled to convert tight games into wins this season, prompting renewed focus on execution, temperament, and adaptability ahead of upcoming fixtures.

Langer reiterated that the team would take lessons from the defeat and return stronger after the scheduled break.

Mbappe injury blow leaves Real Madrid sweating over El Clasico availability

MADRID

Kylian Mbappé has suffered a hamstring setback, leaving Real Madrid sweating over his availability for the crucial El Clasico clash against FC Barcelona next month.

The French forward picked up the injury during Madrid's 1-1 draw with Real Betis, showing visible discomfort late in the second half before being substituted in the 81st minute. He immediately headed down the tunnel, raising concerns among the coaching staff.

In a statement, Real Madrid confirmed that Mbappe has sustained a semitendinosus muscle injury in his left leg. While the club has not provided a definite recovery timeline, sources indicate that his participation in upcoming fixtures remains uncertain.

Head coach Álvaro Arbeloa admitted the situation remains fluid. "He felt some discomfort. We will assess him over the next few days and see how he progresses," he said after the match.

Mbappe's potential absence would be a major setback for Madrid at a critical stage of the season. The 27-year-old has been in outstanding form, leading the La Liga scoring charts with 24 goals and playing a pivotal role in keeping his side in the title race.

Raghuvanshi fined after emotional outburst following obstructing the field dismissal incident

KKR's Angkrish Raghuvanshi fined for emotional reaction after dismissal incident

KOLKATA

Kolkata Knight Riders batter Angkrish Raghuvanshi has been fined 20 per cent of his match fee and handed one demerit point after an emotional on-field outburst during his team's IPL 2026 clash against Lucknow Super Giants.

The incident took place during the fifth over when Raghuvanshi was given out for obstructing the field following a third-umpire review. The decision triggered a visibly frustrated reaction from the young batter, who struck the boundary cushion with his bat before throwing his helmet into the dugout area. The Indian Premier League confirmed the sanction on Monday, stating that Raghuvanshi had breached Level 1 of the Code of Conduct for Players and Team Officials. According to the official statement, he wafound guilty under Article 2.2, which deals with the abuse of cricket equipment or fixtures during a match.The league further added that Raghuvanshi admitted to the offence and accepted the sanction imposed by the match referee, bringing the matter to a close without the need for a formal hearing.

Despite the incident, KKR went on to win the high-pressure encounter against Lucknow Super Giants via a Super Over, capping off a dramatic contest that had swung both ways during regulation play.The dismissal itself added to the intensity of an already charged match situation, with players from both sides awaiting the third umpire's decision before Raghuvanshi was adjudged out for obstructing the field.

INDIA BLANK AUSTRALIA 5-0 TO SEAL THOMAS CUP QUARTERFINAL BERTH

HORSENS

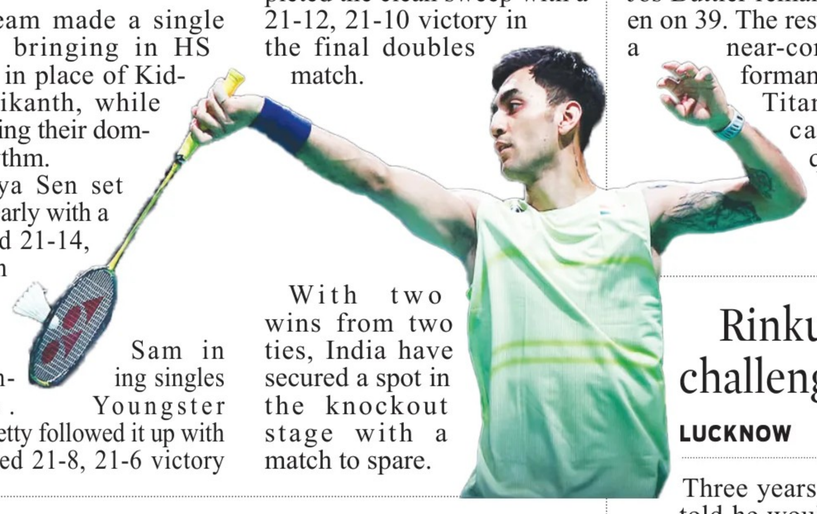
India delivered a commanding performance to crush Australia 5-0 and storm into the quarterfinals of the Thomas Cup 2026 in Horsens, Denmark, on Monday.

Having begun their campaign with a 4-1 win over Canada, the Indian men's team needed one more victory to confirm progression—and achieved it in emphatic fashion.

The team made a single change, bringing in HS Prannoy in place of Kidambi Srikanth, while maintaining their dominant rhythm.

Lakshya Sen set the tone early with a composed 21-14, 21-16 win over Ephraim Stephen Sam in the opening singles match. Youngster Ayush Shetty followed it up with a one-sided 21-8, 21-6 victory against Shrey Dhand, doubling India's lead within minutes.

The experienced doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty then sealed the tie, defeating Rizky Hidayat and Jack Yu 21-14, 21-16 with a controlled display.Prannoy justified his inclusion with a confident 21-11, 21-17 win over Rishi Honda Boopathy, while the pair of Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun completed the clean sweep with a 21-12, 21-10 victory in the final doubles match.



With two wins from two ties, India have secured a spot in the knockout stage with a match to spare.

Gill admits finishing innings remains key concern despite strong CSK win

GT CRUISE PAST CSK, BUT GILL FLAGS CONCERN OVER FINISHING INNINGS

CHENNAI

Gujarat Titans skipper Shubman Gill admitted that his side still has one key area to fix despite a dominant eight-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings in their IPL 2026 clash.GT comfortably chased down 159 with 20 balls to spare at Chepauk, powered by a superb 87 off 46 balls from Sai Sudharsan, while Gill contributed 33 and Jos Buttler remained unbeaten on 39. The result reflected a near-complete performance from the Titans, but the captain was quick to point out a lingering issue.Gill said the team has struggled with "finishing an innings" in recent matches and stressed that improving in the final overs will be crucial as the tournament progresses. While pleased with the overall display, he noted that execution in the closing phase of innings needs sharper focus.He added that apart from a brief period in the final overs, GT controlled most aspects of the match. The decision to bowl first after winning the toss worked in their favour as they restricted CSK to 158 for 7, with Kagiso Rabada starring with 3 for 25 and earning the Player of the Match award. Gill also spoke about some tactical confusion during the middle overs, particularly regarding spin options and the limited use of Rashid Khan, but said the team still managed to stay in control. He credited the fast-bowling unit for maintaining pressure and executing plans effectively in helpful conditions.Sudharsan, who continued his fine form, described the knock as a confidence-building effort, especially after his previous century, and highlighted the importance of spending time at the crease in challenging conditions early in the innings.

Rabada, meanwhile, emphasised discipline and process, saying consistency and continuous improvement remain key to success. He also praised the growing synergy among GT's pace attack, which has become a defining feature of the team's strategy.

CSK skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad admitted his side struggled to adapt to unpredictable Chepauk conditions, which saw variable bounce and difficult batting phases, leading to regular wickets and a lack of partnerships.

"Get him tested in lab": Pakistan experts stunned by Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

NEW DELHI

Teen sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi continues to dominate IPL 2026 conversations, with his extraordinary performances for Rajasthan Royals now drawing stunned admiration from across the border, where experts have gone as far as calling him "non-human" and "unreal".

At just 15 years of age, Sooryavanshi has emerged as one of the most destructive batters of the season, currently sitting among the top run-scorers with 357 runs in eight matches, including a blazing century and a strike rate exceeding 234. His fearless approach against some of the world's best bowlers has made him one of the most talked-about young talents in global cricket.

The hype surrounding the youngster has now reached Pakistan, where cricket analyst Nouman Niaz made sensational remarks during a discussion, joking that Sooryavanshi's ability should be scientifically examined. In a light-hearted but amazed tone, Niaz suggested that the teenager appears so advanced that he "should be sent to a lab," even joking about the possibility of an artificial intelligence chip behind his performances.

His comments came after another explosive innings where Sooryavanshi continued to display his remarkable timing and power. Niaz further expressed disbelief at the youngster's consistency, stating that even his "slow" innings looked superior to most modern batting standards.

Beyond the humour, the analyst also broke down Sooryavanshi's technique, pointing out that while he may not yet possess a fully developed classical structure, his wrist work, hand speed, and natural hitting arc make him exceptionally difficult to contain. He added that such talent at this age is rare and could develop into something extraordinary in the coming years.Sooryavanshi's rise has been rapid, with several match-winning and high-impact innings already this season for Rajasthan Royals. His ability to dominate both pace and spin has made him a key figure in their batting lineup despite his youth.

Rinku Singh answers Sehwag's challenge with explosive IPL finish

LUCKNOW

Three years after being told he would never repeat his iconic finish, Rinku Singh delivered another explosive reply with the bat, powering Kolkata Knight Riders in a thrilling IPL 2026 encounter against Lucknow Super Giants.In a high-pressure match at Ekana Stadium, Rinku smashed an unbeaten 83 off 51 balls, including a stunning sequence of four consecutive sixes in the final over, guiding KKR to a competitive total of 155 for 7. His late assault completely changed the momentum of the innings after KKR were in deep trouble early on.The performance came as a direct response on the field to a famous remark made three years ago by former India opener Virender Sehwag, who had said that Rinku would never be able to recreate his legendary five-sixes finish from 2023. That historic moment had come against Gujarat Titans in 2023, when Rinku stunned the cricketing world by hitting five consecutive sixes in the final over to seal an impossible chase. At the time, Sehwag had called it a once-in-a-lifetime feat.

But in Lucknow, Rinku once again showed his finishing power under pressure. Walking in after early wickets left KKR struggling, he rebuilt the innings with controlled aggression before launching a brutal assault in the death overs.He targeted experienced pacer Mohammed Shami in the 19th over before turning his attention to spinner Digvesh Rathi in the final over.

The result was a sequence of clean, fearless hitting that included seven fours and five sixes in his innings, pushing KKR to a fighting total.The knock also underlined Rinku's mental strength, coming in a season where he has faced personal hardship following the passing of his father earlier this year. Despite the emotional setback, he has continued to deliver crucial performances for his team.

Gavaskar urges BCCI to tighten IPL rules, calls delays 'taking liberty too far'

NEW DELHI

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar has written to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), urging stricter measures to control match delays in IPL 2026, saying the current situation is "taking liberty too far" as games continue to stretch well beyond the intended T20 duration.

Despite repeated efforts by the BCCI, including fines and potential match bans for captains over slow over-rate offences, the problem has persisted throughout the season. Several matches have now extended beyond four hours, significantly longer than the original three-hour format designed for T20 cricket.

One of the longest games this season, between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Mumbai Indians, lasted an exhausting 4 hours and 22 minutes, sparking renewed debate over the need for stricter enforcement of time regulations.Gavaskar, in his column, highlighted concerns over unnecessary interruptions during play, particularly the frequent entry of reserve players and support staff onto the field. He argued that such practices disrupt the flow of the game and go against the spirit of maintaining a clear playing area.

He pointed out that even minor acts, such as reserve players carrying drinks or multiple coaching staff entering the field during strategic time-outs, contribute to delays. According to him, only essential personnel should be allowed on the field, and even that should be strictly limited. Gavaskar also referenced a principle shared with him by legendary commentator Richie Benaud, emphasizing that the field of play should remain sacred and restricted only to players and match officials.

He further added that even those with broad access credentials should respect boundaries and avoid unnecessary entry onto the ground.

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